LEIJI MATSUMOTO:

THE WITCH EMERALDUS CONTINUES HER SOLITARY JOURNEY, HER LIFE IN THE HANDS OF HER EERIE SHIP. NO ONE KNOWS WHAT SHE IS AFTER. NEITHER DOES ANYONE KNOW THE FATE OF THE YOUNG BOY UMINO HIROSHI, BOUND TO HER BY A MYSTERIOUS TIE... THIS IS THE SECOND VOLUME OF THIS THRILLING SPACE OPERA!!

Kodansya Comics MAGAZINE KCM 552

Queen EMERALDUS

2 KC MAGAZINE

STORY AND ART: By L. Matsumoto

Queen EMERALDUS 2

KC MAGAZINE KC MAGAZINE

LEIJI MATSUMOTO

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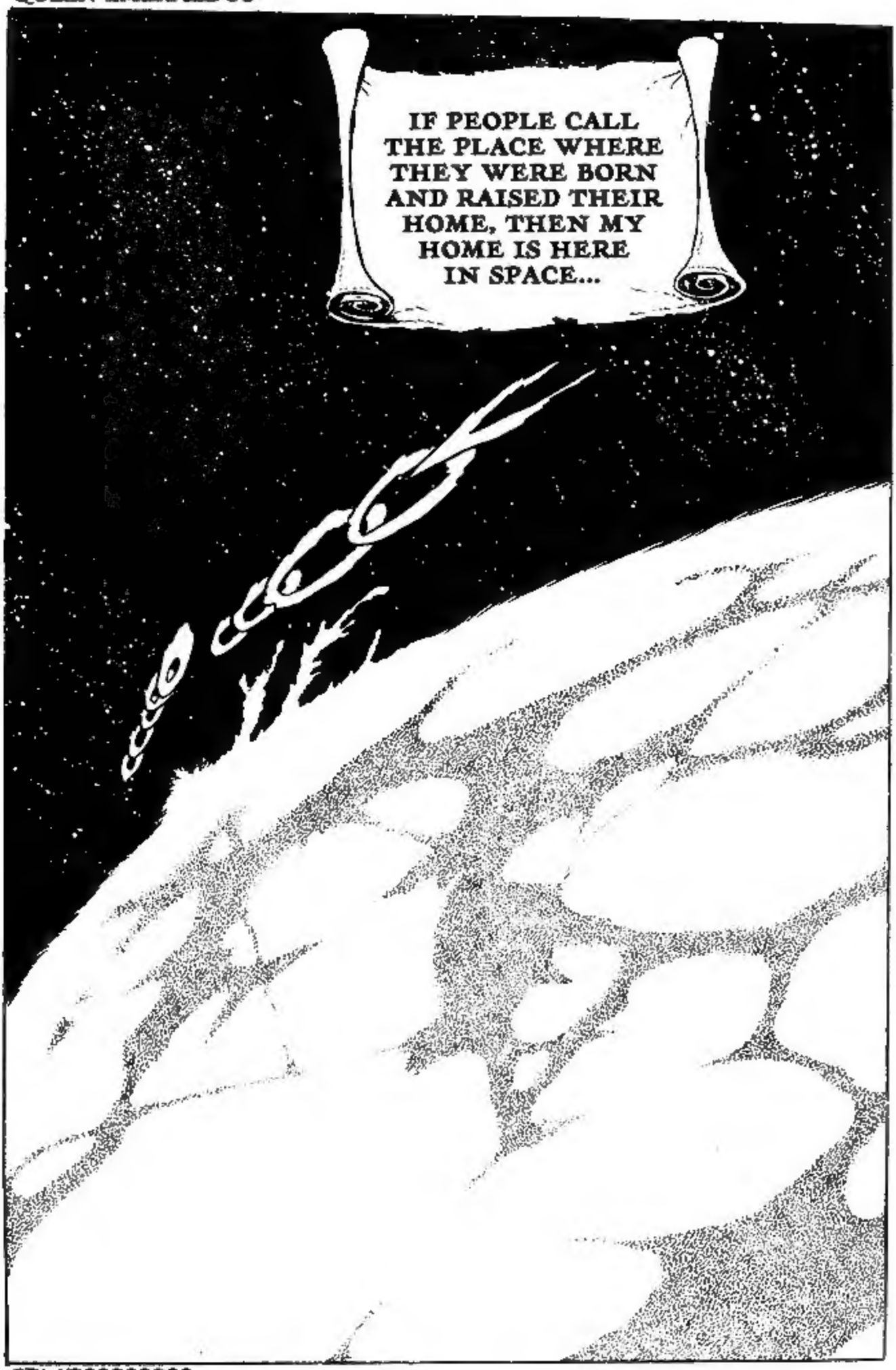
Kodansya Comics

QUEEN EMERALDUS Vol 2

PRESENTED BY
HOKUTO NO GUN
AND HAPPY SCANS

TRANSLATED BY
KATATONIA
TLC BY
SYSTEMATICCHAOS
CLEANED BY
WRIGHT
TYPESETTING BY
KAZUHIKO

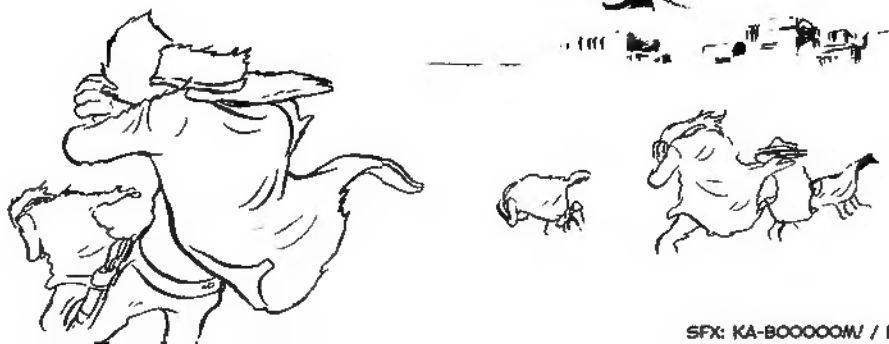
QUEEN EMERALDUS

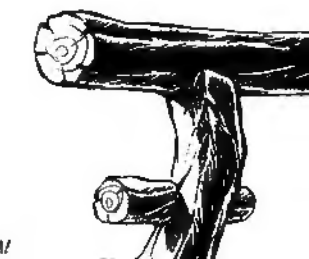


SFX: VOOOOOOOOO...

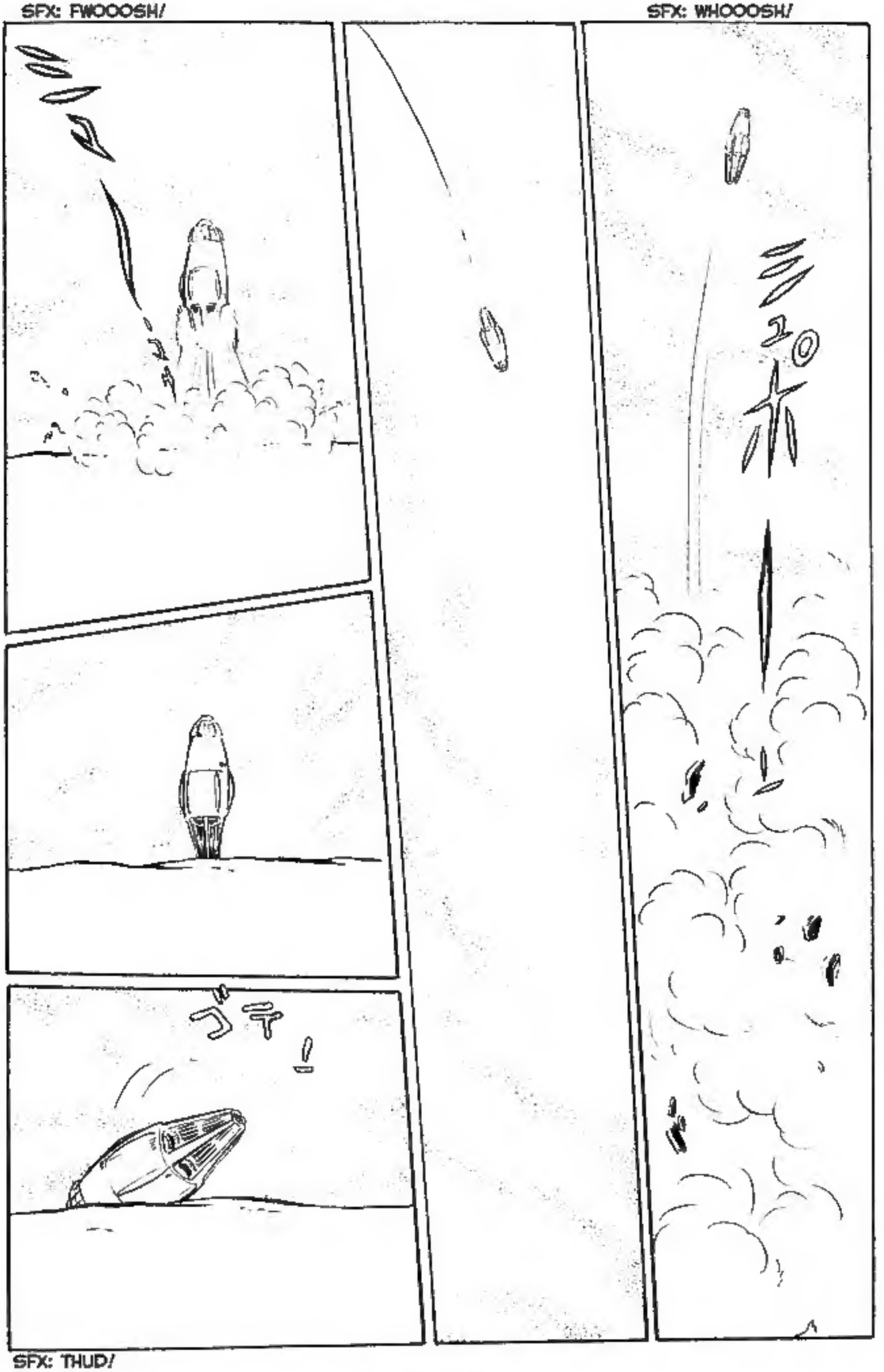
Queen EMERALDUS

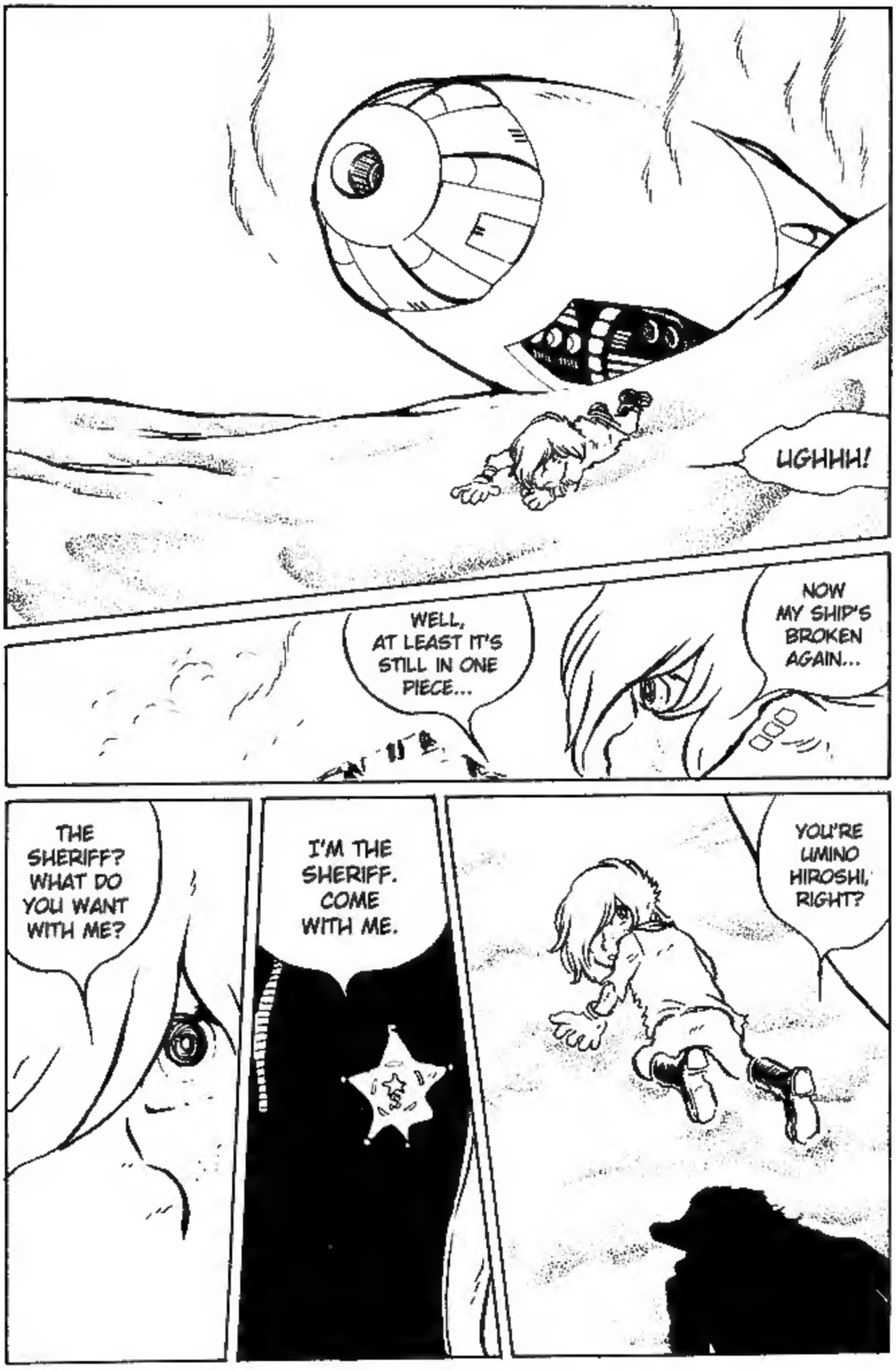
STORY AND ART:
BY L.MATSUMOTO

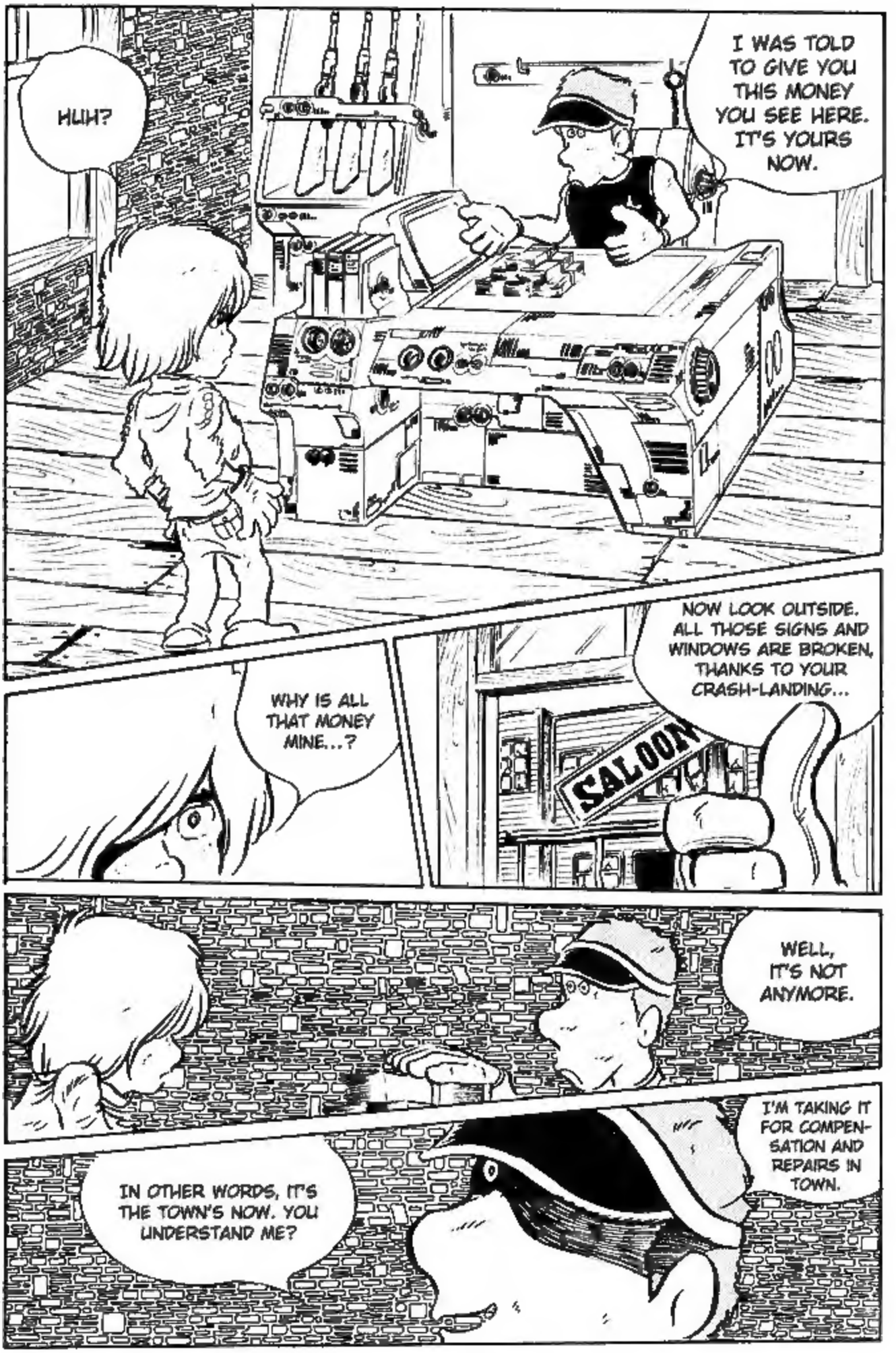


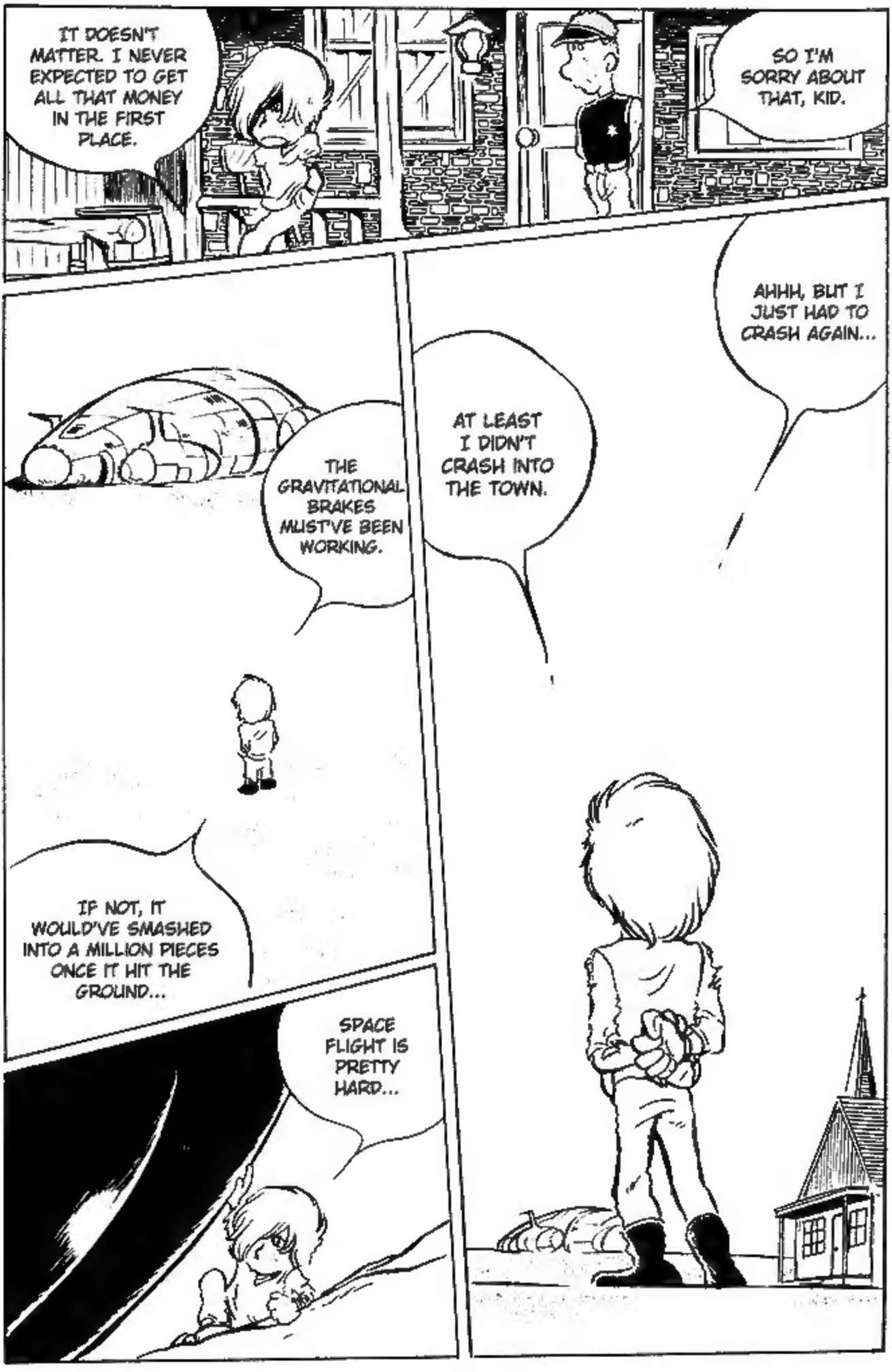


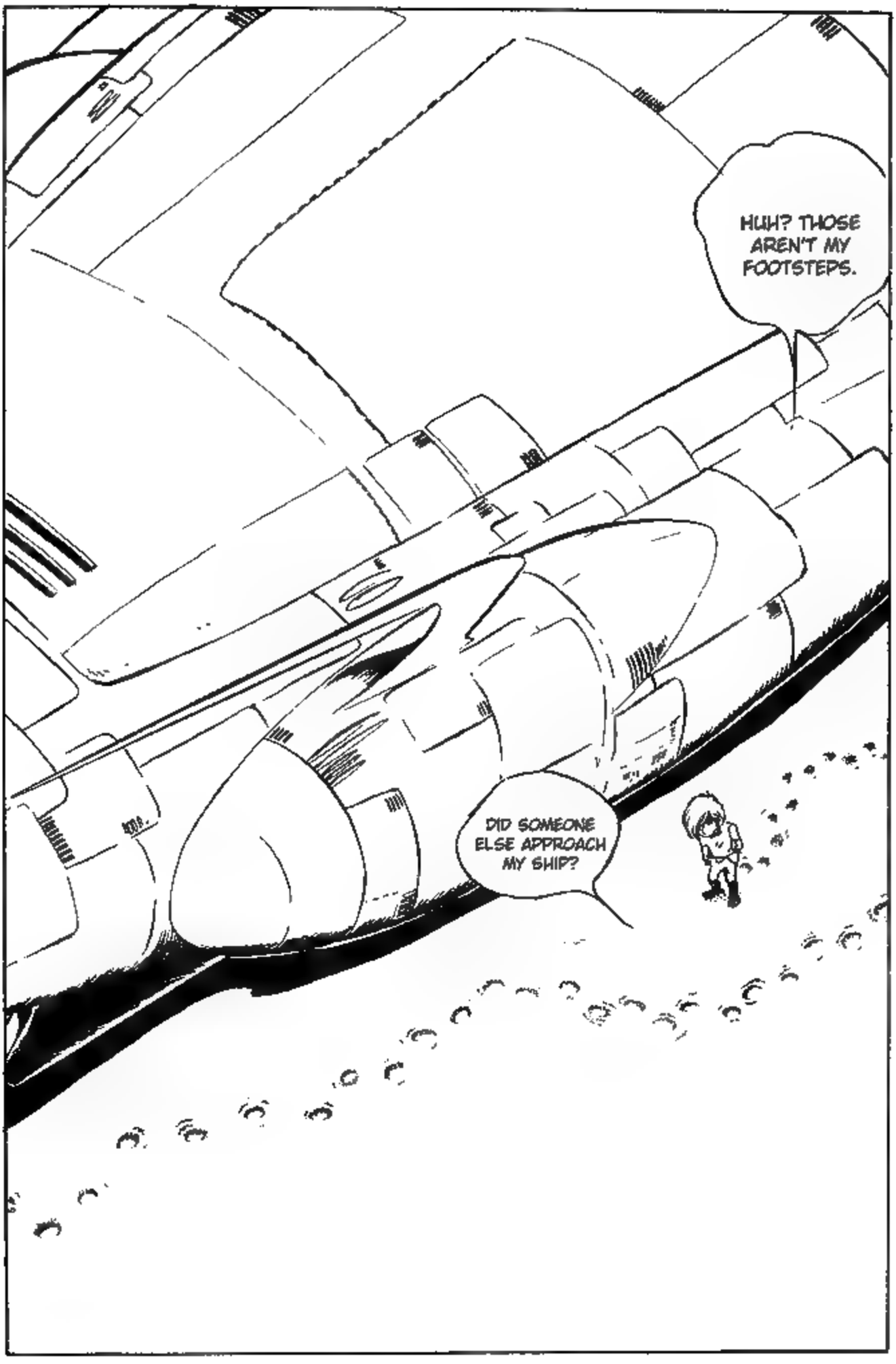
SFX: KA-BOOOOOM! / FWOOOOOOOSH!

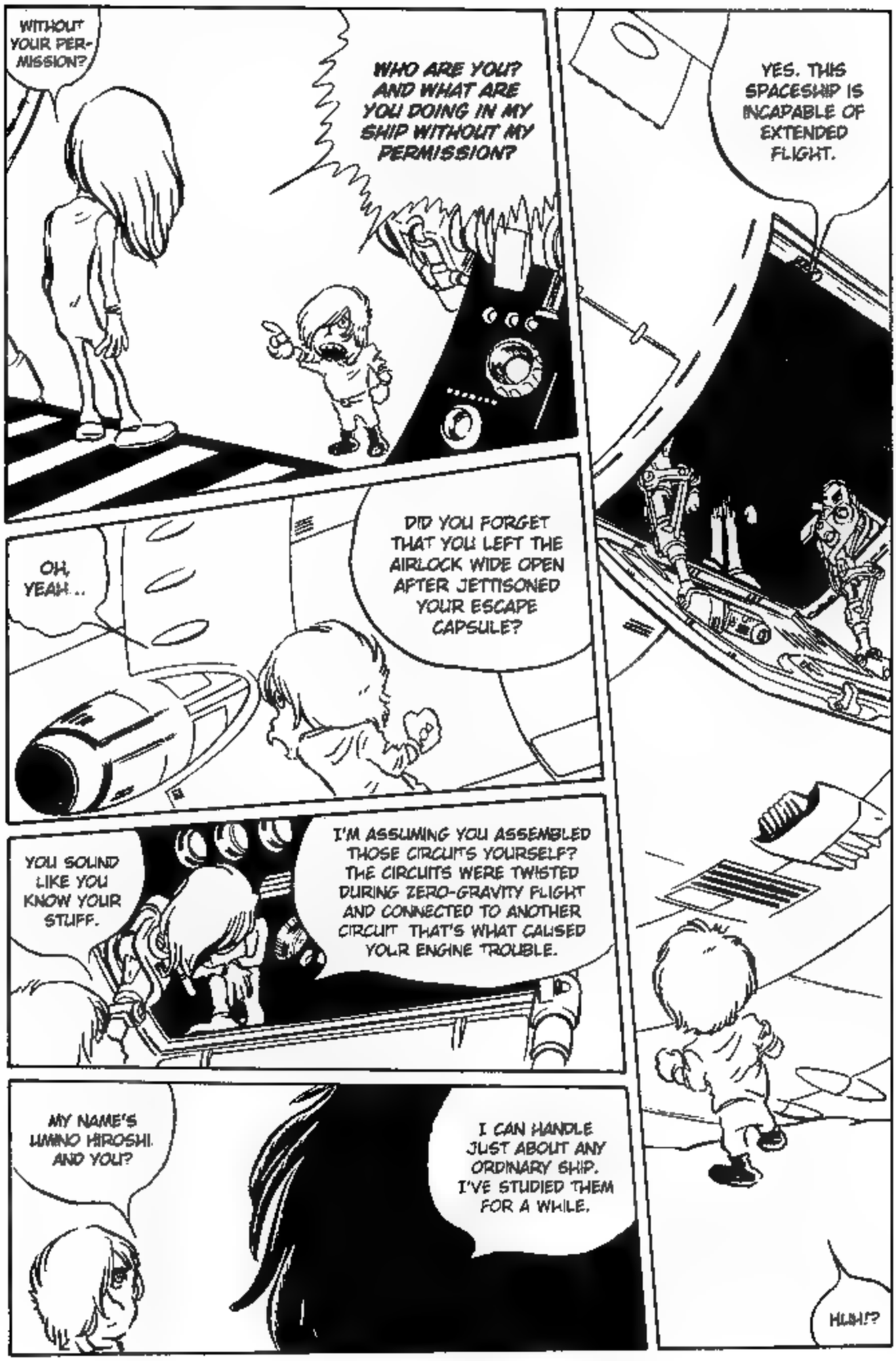

SFX: FWOOOSH/
SFX: WHOOOSH/
ゴオ！
SFX: THUD/

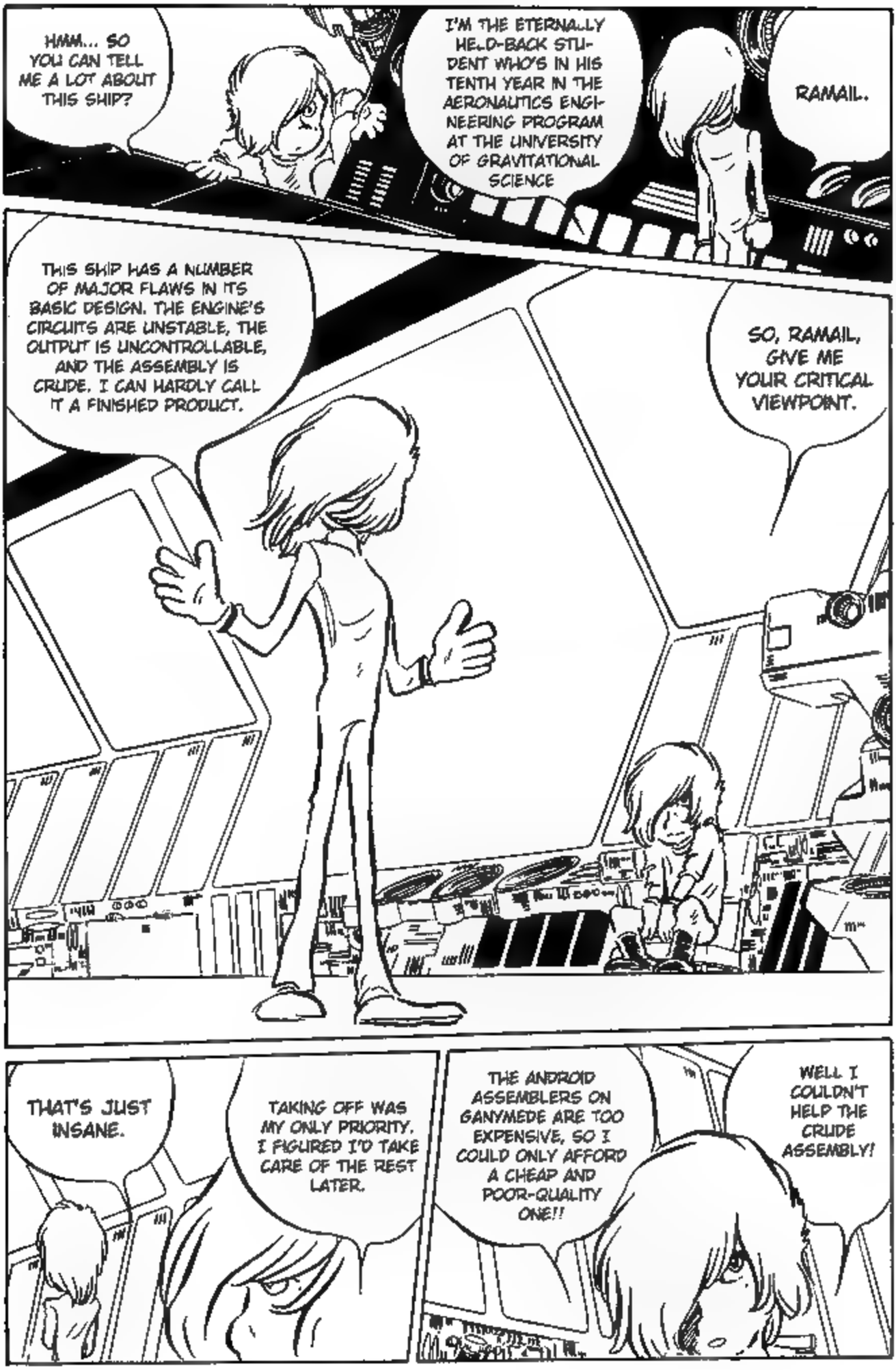

UGHHH!
NOW MY SHIP'S BROKEN AGAIN...
WELL, AT LEAST IT'S STILL IN ONE PIECE...
YOU'RE UMINO HIROSHI, RIGHT?
I'M THE SHERIFF. COME WITH ME.
THE SHERIFF? WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME?

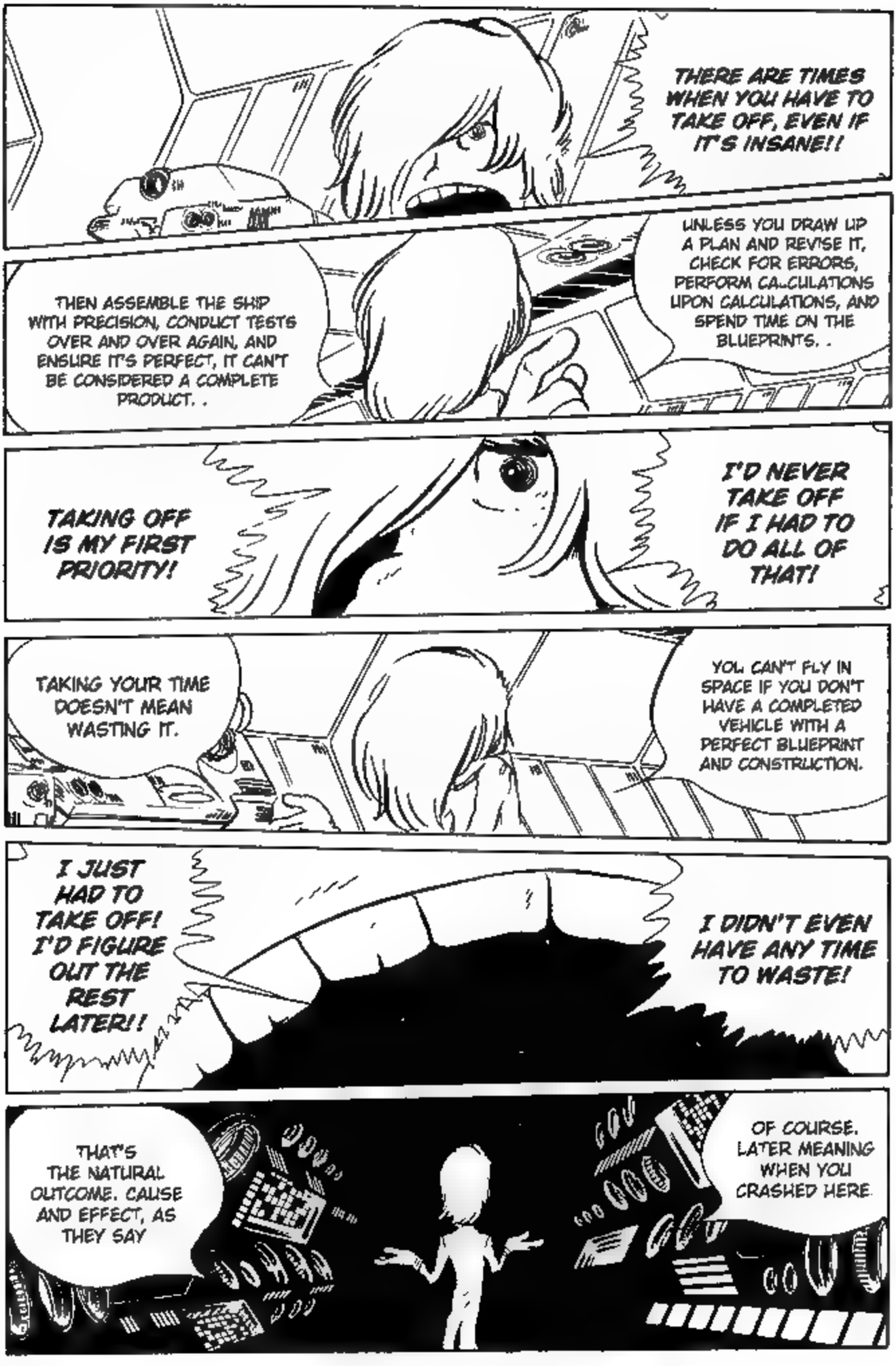

HUH?
I WAS TOLD TO GIVE YOU THIS MONEY YOU SEE HERE. IT'S YOURS NOW.
WHY IS ALL THAT MONEY MINE...?
NOW LOOK OUTSIDE. ALL THOSE SIGNS AND WINDOWS ARE BROKEN, THANKS TO YOUR CRASH-LANDING...
SALOON
WELL, IT'S NOT ANYMORE.
I'M TAKING IT FOR COMPEN-SATION AND REPAIRS IN TOWN.
IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S THE TOWN'S NOW. YOU UNDERSTAND ME?

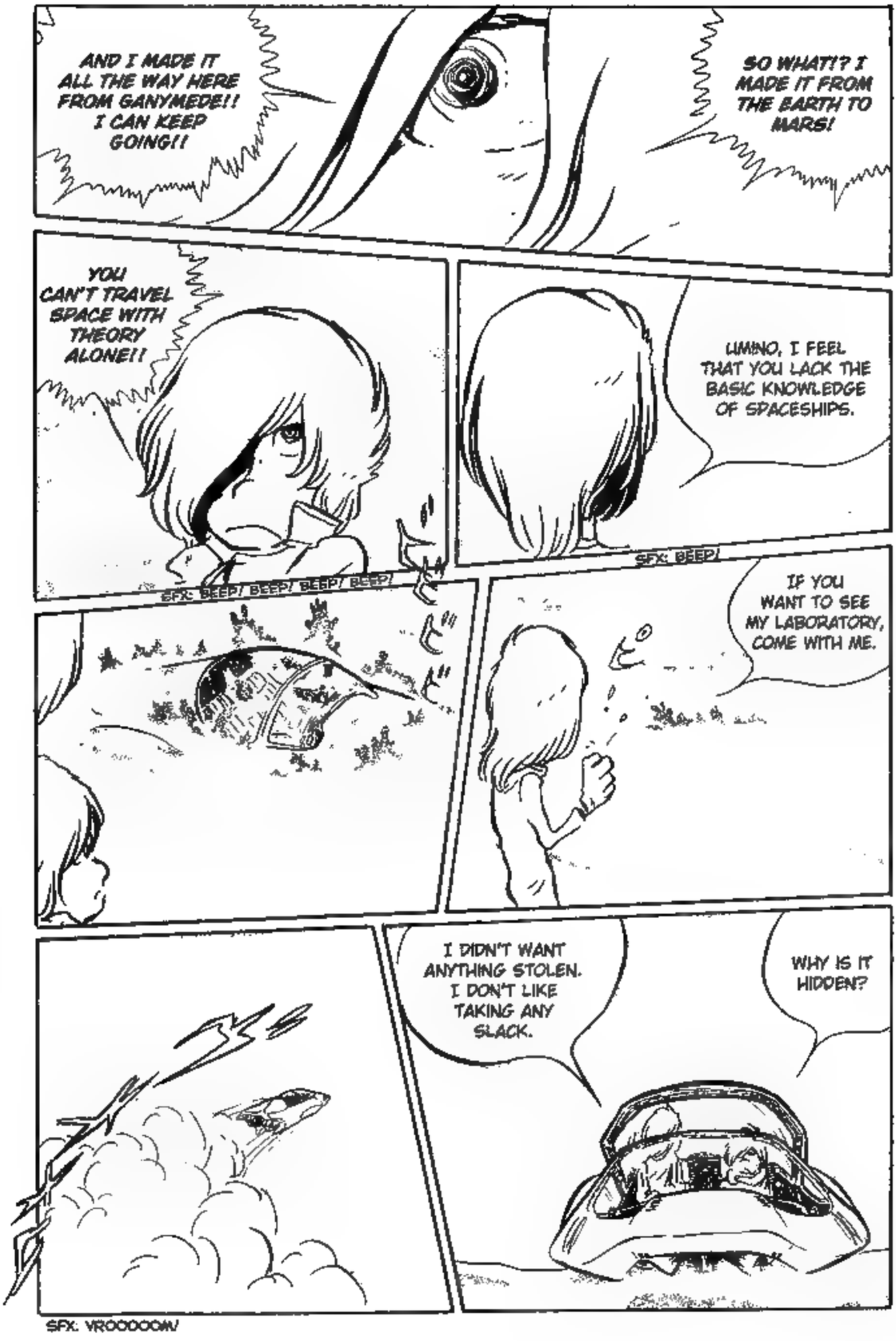

IT DOESN'T MATTER. I NEVER EXPECTED TO GET ALL THAT MONEY IN THE FIRST PLACE.
SO I'M SORRY ABOUT THAT, KID.
AHHH, BUT I JUST HAD TO CRASH AGAIN...
AT LEAST I DIDN'T CRASH INTO THE TOWN.
THE GRAVITATIONAL BRAKES MUST'VE BEEN WORKING.
IF NOT, IT WOULD'VE SMASHED INTO A MILLION PIECES ONCE IT HIT THE GROUND...
SPACE FLIGHT IS PRETTY HARD...


HUH? THOSE AREN'T MY FOOTSTEPS.
DID SOMEONE ELSE APPROACH MY SHIP?


WITHOUT YOUR PERMISSION?
WHO ARE YOU? AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN MY SHIP WITHOUT MY PERMISSION?
YES. THIS SPACESHIP IS INCAPABLE OF EXTENDED FLIGHT.
OH, YEAH...
DID YOU FORGET THAT YOU LEFT THE AIRLOCK WIDE OPEN AFTER JETTISONED YOUR ESCAPE CAPSULE?
YOU SOUND LIKE YOU KNOW YOUR STUFF.
I'M ASSUMING YOU ASSEMBLED THOSE CIRCUITS YOURSELF? THE CIRCUITS WERE TWISTED DURING ZERO-GRAVITY FLIGHT AND CONNECTED TO ANOTHER CIRCUIT. THAT'S WHAT CAUSED YOUR ENGINE TROUBLE.
MY NAME'S UMINO HIROSHI. AND YOU?
I CAN HANDLE JUST ABOUT ANY ORDINARY SHIP. I'VE STUDIED THEM FOR A WHILE.
HUH!?

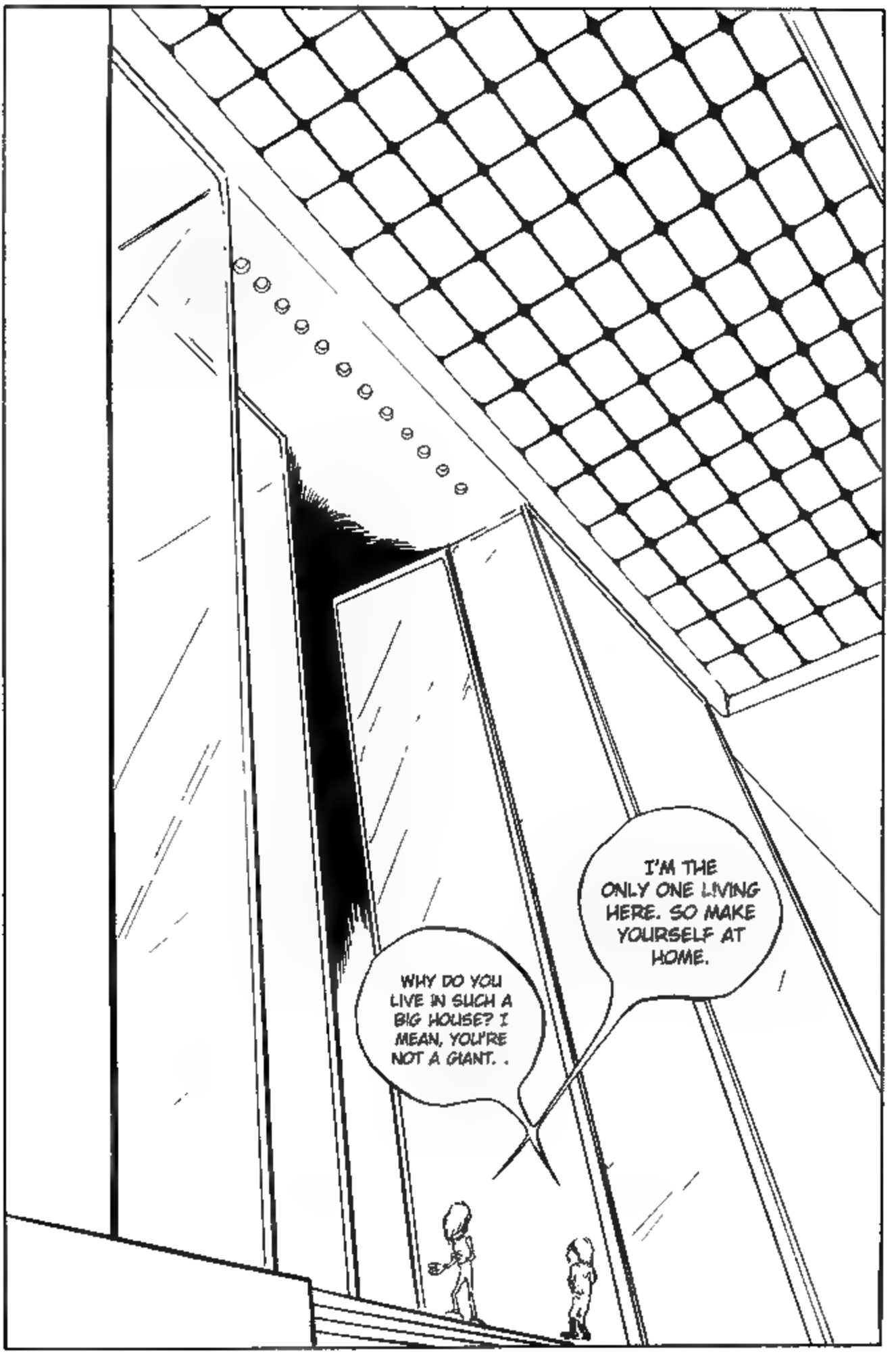

HMM... SO YOU CAN TELL ME A LOT ABOUT THIS SHIP?
I'M THE ETERNALLY HELD-BACK STUDENT WHO'S IN HIS TENTH YEAR IN THE AERONAUTICS ENGINEERING PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GRAVITATIONAL SCIENCE
RAMAIL.
THIS SHIP HAS A NUMBER OF MAJOR FLAWS IN ITS BASIC DESIGN. THE ENGINE'S CIRCUITS ARE UNSTABLE, THE OUTPUT IS UNCONTROLLABLE, AND THE ASSEMBLY IS CRUDE. I CAN HARDLY CALL IT A FINISHED PRODUCT.
SO, RAMAIL, GIVE ME YOUR CRITICAL VIEWPOINT.
THAT'S JUST INSANE.
TAKING OFF WAS MY ONLY PRIORITY. I FIGURED I'D TAKE CARE OF THE REST LATER.
THE ANDROID ASSEMBLERS ON GANYMEDE ARE TOO EXPENSIVE, SO I COULD ONLY AFFORD A CHEAP AND POOR-QUALITY ONE!!
WELL I COULDN'T HELP THE CRUDE ASSEMBLY!


THERE ARE TIMES WHEN YOU HAVE TO TAKE OFF, EVEN IF IT'S INSANE!!
UNLESS YOU DRAW UP A PLAN AND REVISE IT, CHECK FOR ERRORS, PERFORM CA..CULATIONS UPON CALCULATIONS, AND SPEND TIME ON THE BLUEPRINTS. .
THEN ASSEMBLE THE SHIP WITH PRECISION, CONDUCT TESTS OVER AND OVER AGAIN, AND ENSURE IT'S PERFECT, IT CAN'T BE CONSIDERED A COMPLETE PRODUCT. .
I'D NEVER TAKE OFF IF I HAD TO DO ALL OF THAT!
TAKING OFF IS MY FIRST PRIORITY!
TAKING YOUR TIME DOESN'T MEAN WASTING IT.
YOU CAN'T FLY IN SPACE IF YOU DON'T HAVE A COMPLETED VEHICLE WITH A PERFECT BLUEPRINT AND CONSTRUCTION.
I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE ANY TIME TO WASTE!
I JUST HAD TO TAKE OFF! I'D FIGURE OUT THE REST LATER!!
OF COURSE. LATER MEANING WHEN YOU CRASHED HERE.
THAT'S THE NATURAL OUTCOME. CAUSE AND EFFECT, AS THEY SAY

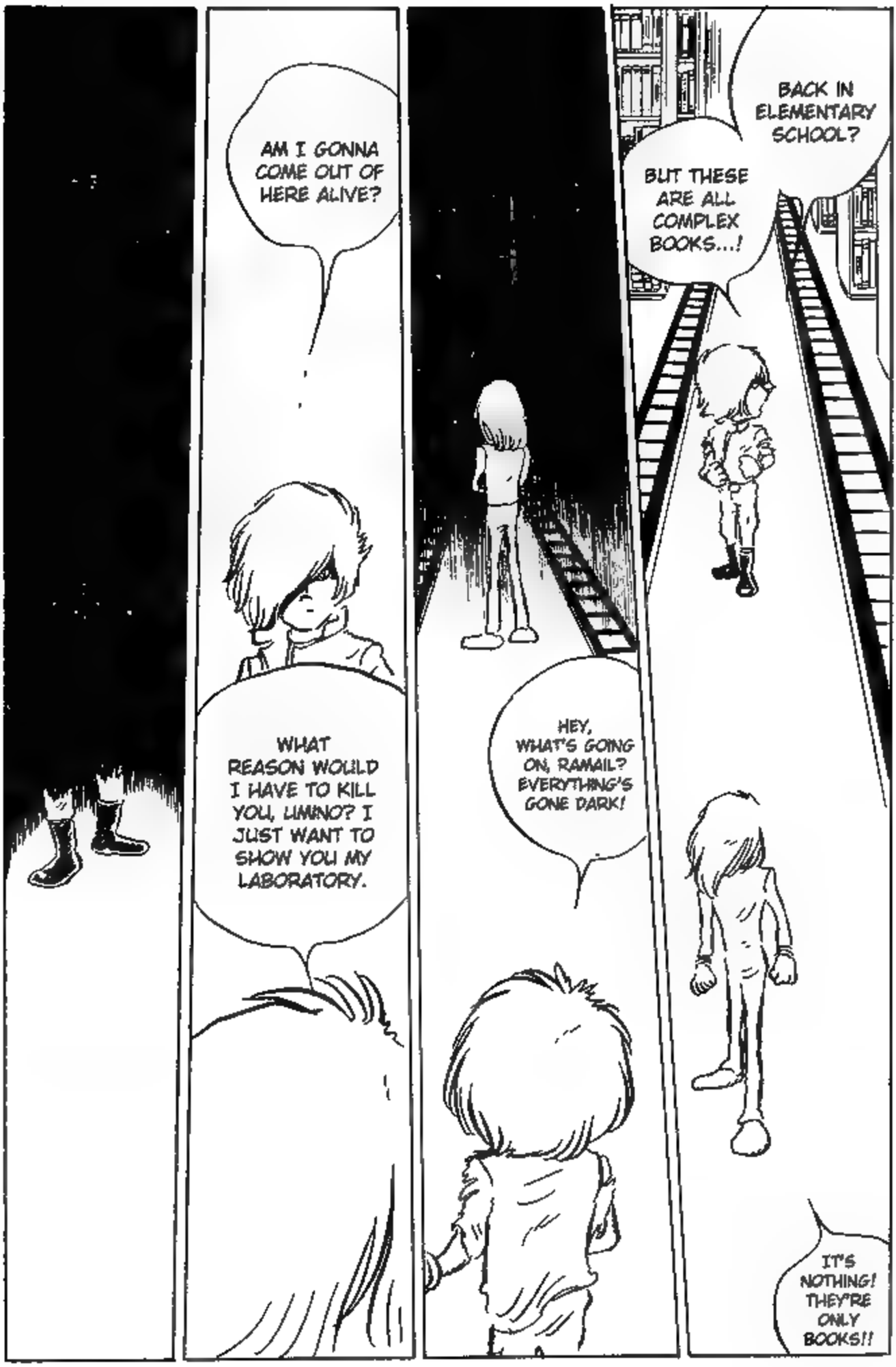

AND I MADE IT ALL THE WAY HERE FROM GANYMEDE!! I CAN KEEP GOING!!
SO WHAT!? I MADE IT FROM THE EARTH TO MARS!
YOU CAN'T TRAVEL SPACE WITH THEORY ALONE!!
UMINO, I FEEL THAT YOU LACK THE BASIC KNOWLEDGE OF SPACESHIPS.
SFX: BEEP/ BEEP/ BEEP/ BEEP/
SFX: BEEP/
IF YOU WANT TO SEE MY LABORATORY, COME WITH ME.
I DIDN'T WANT ANYTHING STOLEN. I DON'T LIKE TAKING ANY SLACK.
WHY IS IT HIDDEN?
SFX: VROOOOOM/

HMM... SO IS THAT THE UNIVERSITY OF GRAVITATIONAL SCIENCE, RAMAIL?
NO, SILLY. THAT'S MY HOUSE.

THE UNIVERSITY IS TO YOUR RIGHT. ALL STUDENTS WHO ATTEND THERE LIVE IN HOMES LIKE THIS.
OHHH.


I'M THE ONLY ONE LIVING HERE. SO MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME.
WHY DO YOU LIVE IN SUCH A BIG HOUSE? I MEAN, YOU'RE NOT A GIANT. .

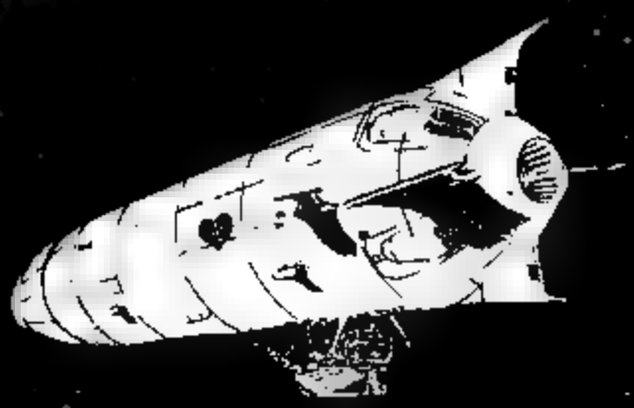
JUST TOUCH THIS, AND THE FLOOR WILL TAKE YOU WHERE YOU WANT TO GO.
Wm
IT'S NOT LIKE WALKING INSIDE GETS ME TIRED ANYWAY.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WALK, EITHER. THERE'S A MOVING FLOOR.
DID YOU READ ALL THESE BOOKS, RAMAIL?
YES, BACK IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.


AM I GONNA COME OUT OF HERE ALIVE?
WHAT REASON WOULD I HAVE TO KILL YOU, LUMINO? I JUST WANT TO SHOW YOU MY LABORATORY.
HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON, RAMAIL? EVERYTHING'S GONE DARK!
BUT THESE ARE ALL COMPLEX BOOKS...!
BACK IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL?
IT'S NOTHING! THEY'RE ONLY BOOKS!!

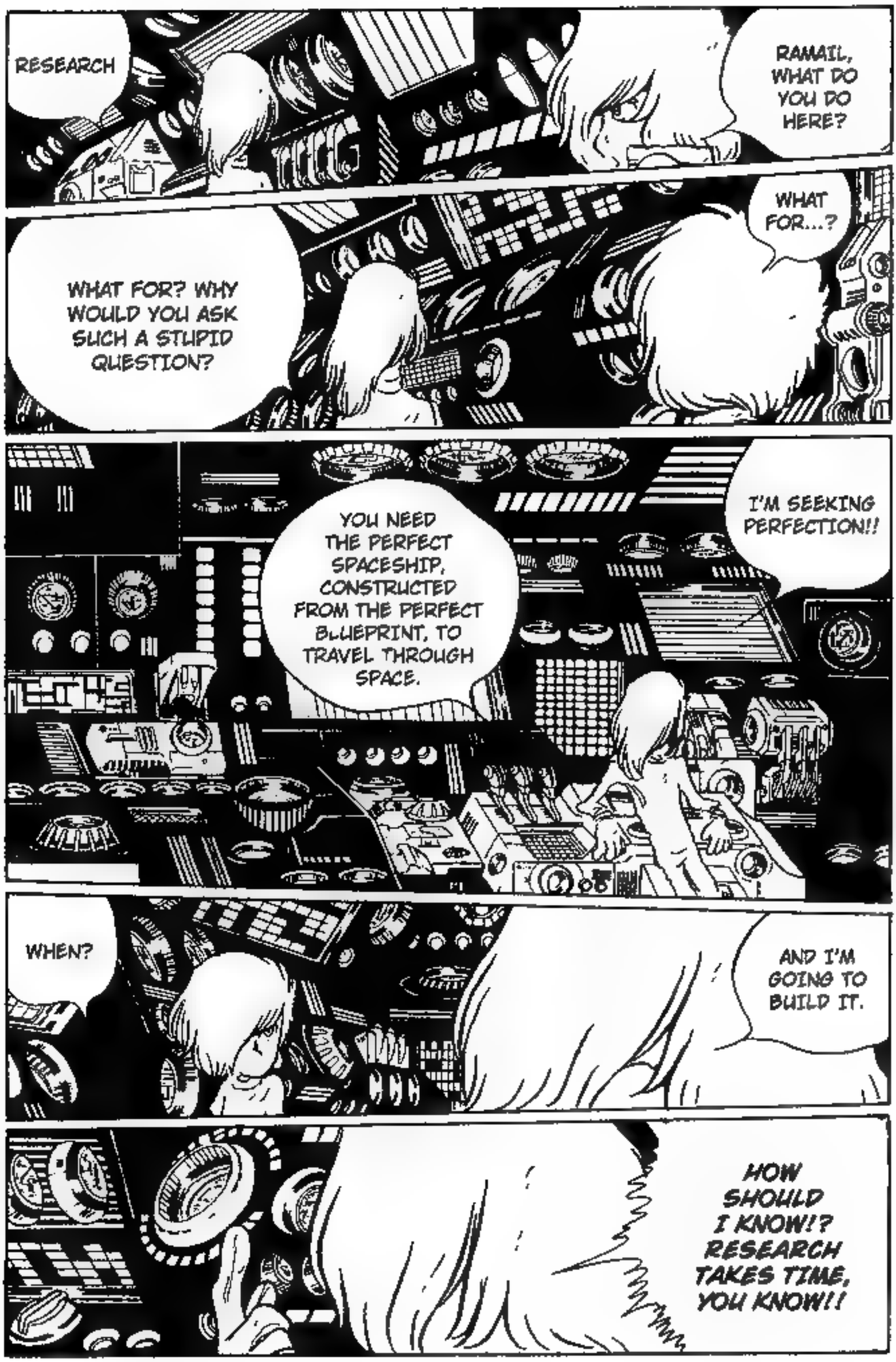
THIS IS MY LABORATORY.
I'LL TURN ON THE LIGHTS NOW!!
IT'S PITCH BLACK! I CAN'T SEE A THING!!

I AM EMERALDUS.
WHEN I TRAVEL THROUGH SPACE, I ENCOUNTER THINGS THAT CANNOT BE EXPLAINED THROUGH REASON OR CALCULATIONS...
IN SUCH MOMENTS, A TRAVELLER MUST HAVE AN INDOMITABLE WILL...
I KNOW THAT SO WELL IT HURTS...

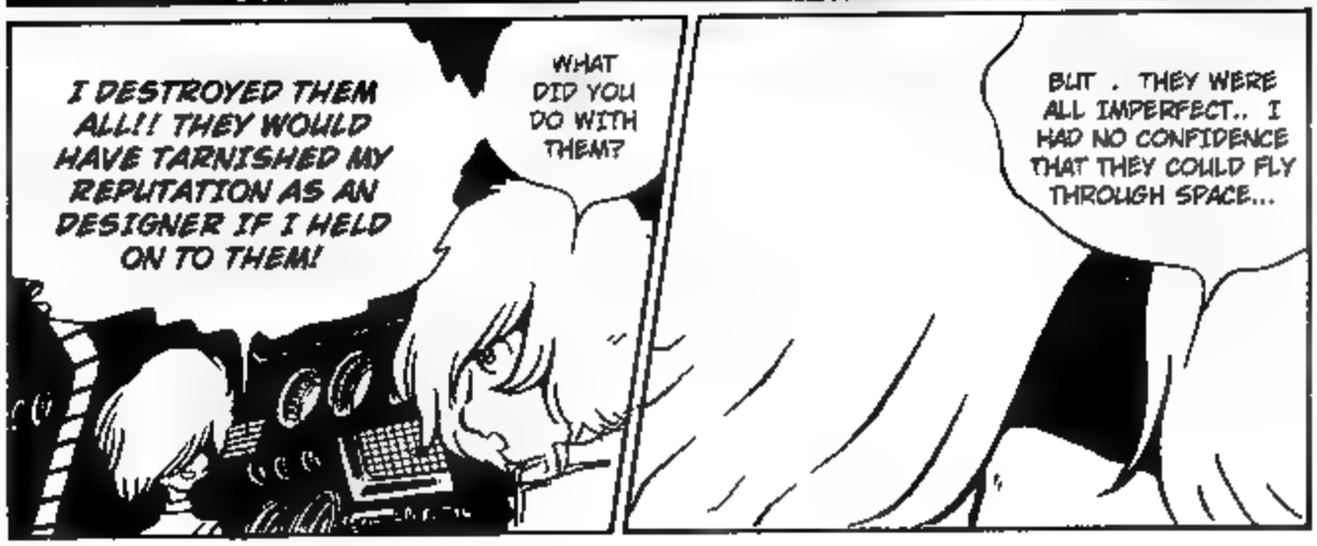
I DO NOT EVEN REMEMBER HOW LONG I HAVE BEEN WANDERING THROUGH SPACE WITH THE QUEEN EMERALDUS. I HAVE SEEN MANY THINGS OVER THE COURSE OF MY LONG JOURNEY... THE UNIVERSE IS A FLEDGLING PLACE IN THE MIDST OF GROWTH... NOTHING IS PERFECT YET... THOSE WHO SEEK PERFECTION IN THIS UNIVERSE ONLY DIE IN DESPAIR...

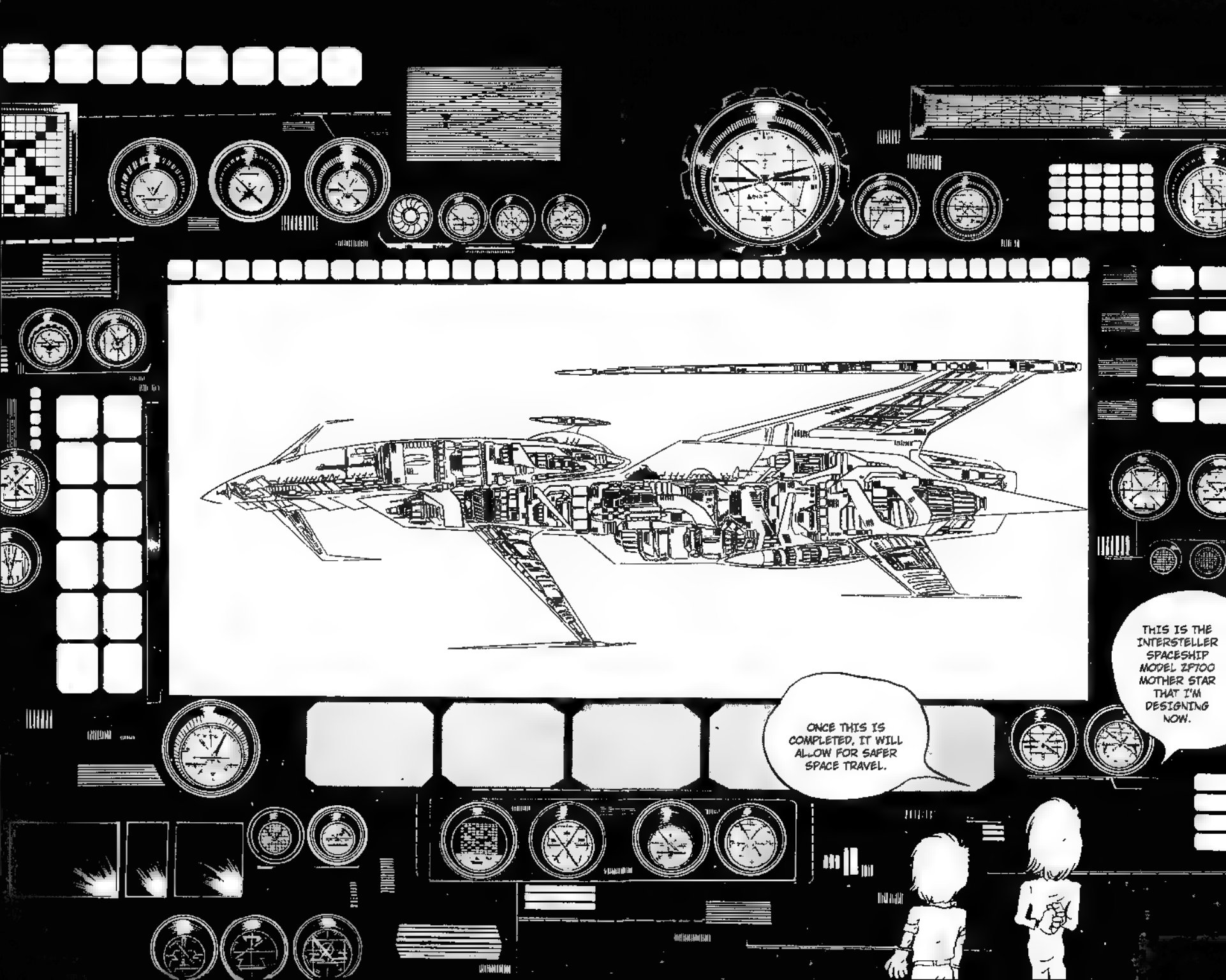


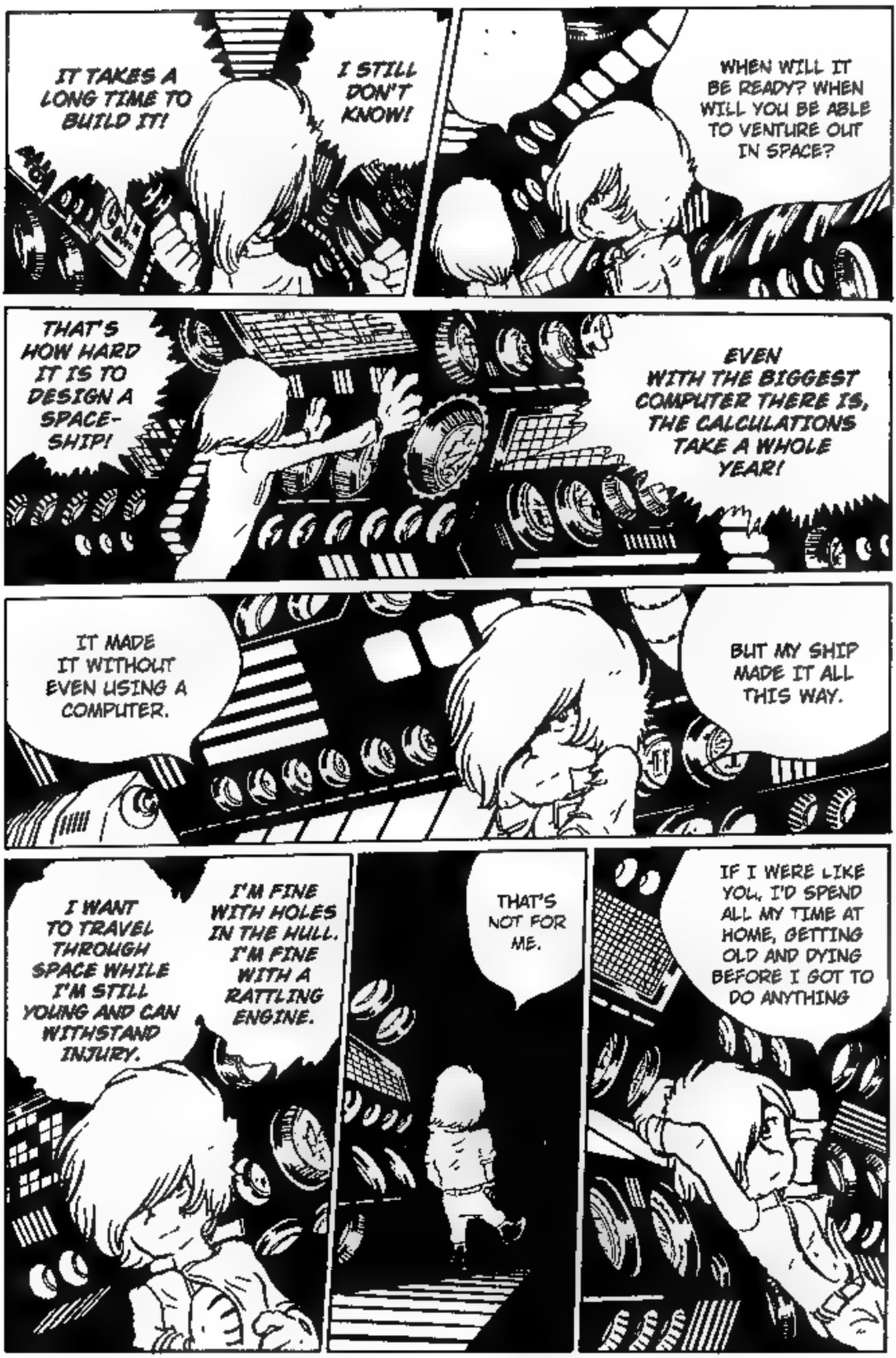
LOOK. THIS IS MY LABORATORY IT'S GOT EVERYTHING YOU COULD EVER NEED.
THIS IS AN AUTOMATED ANALYZER WITH AN OUTPUT OF 170,000 SPACE AMPS. THAT'S A CORRELATIVE BIPROPORTIONAL CREATION DESIGNER. OVER THERE IS A PERFECT CORRECTIVE SENSOR COMPUTER. ARE YOU FOLLOWING ME?

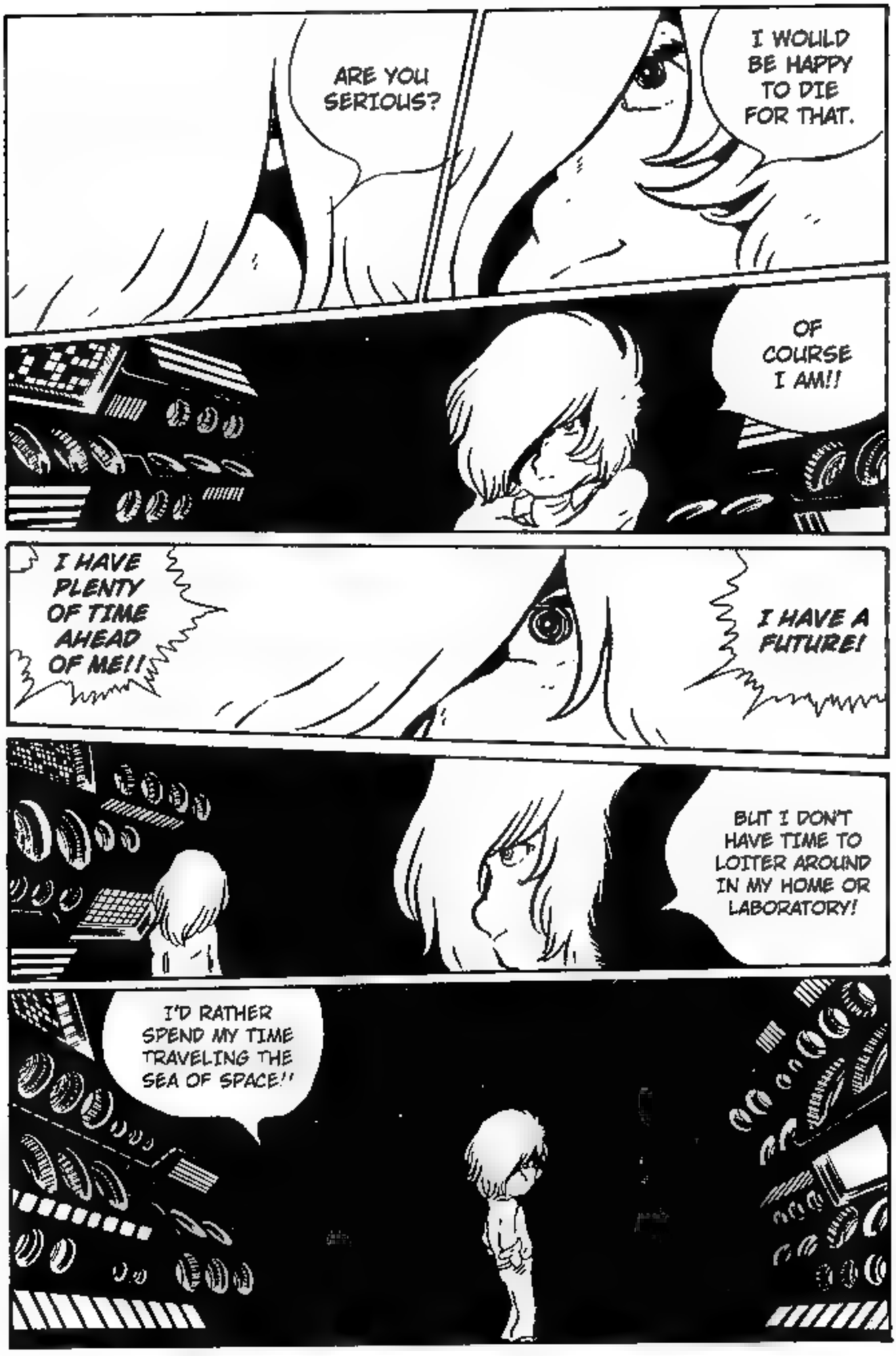

RESEARCH
RAMAIL, WHAT DO YOU DO HERE?
WHAT FOR...?
WHAT FOR? WHY WOULD YOU ASK SUCH A STUPID QUESTION?
I'M SEEKING PERFECTION!!
YOU NEED THE PERFECT SPACESHIP, CONSTRUCTED FROM THE PERFECT BLUEPRINT, TO TRAVEL THROUGH SPACE.
WHEN?
AND I'M GOING TO BUILD IT.
HOW SHOULD I KNOW!? RESEARCH TAKES TIME, YOU KNOW!!

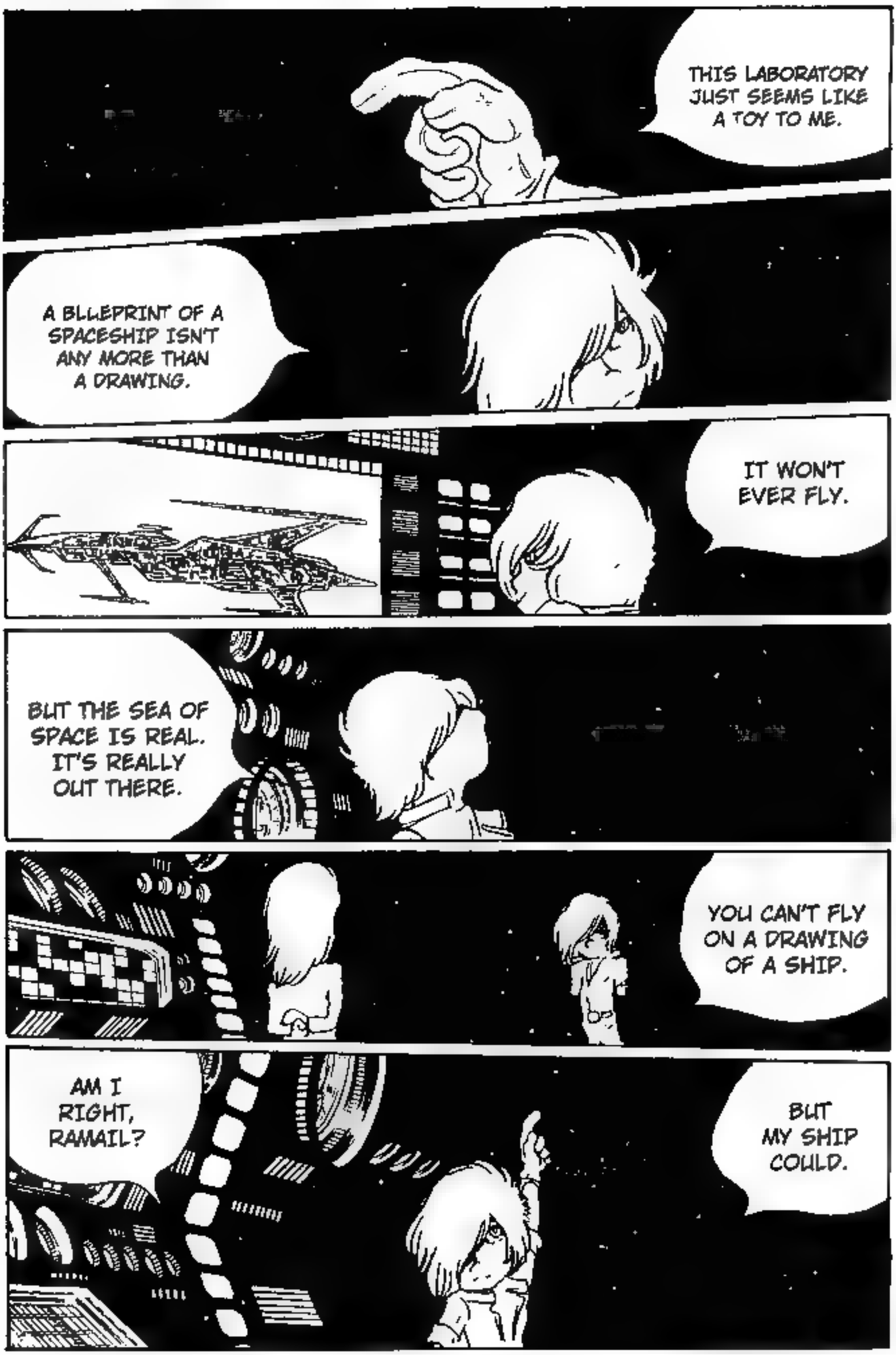
I'VE TRIED BUILDING A LOT OF SHIPS...
EACH ONE OF THEM WAS INFINITELY SUPERIOR TO THE SCRAP YOU CAME HERE ON.

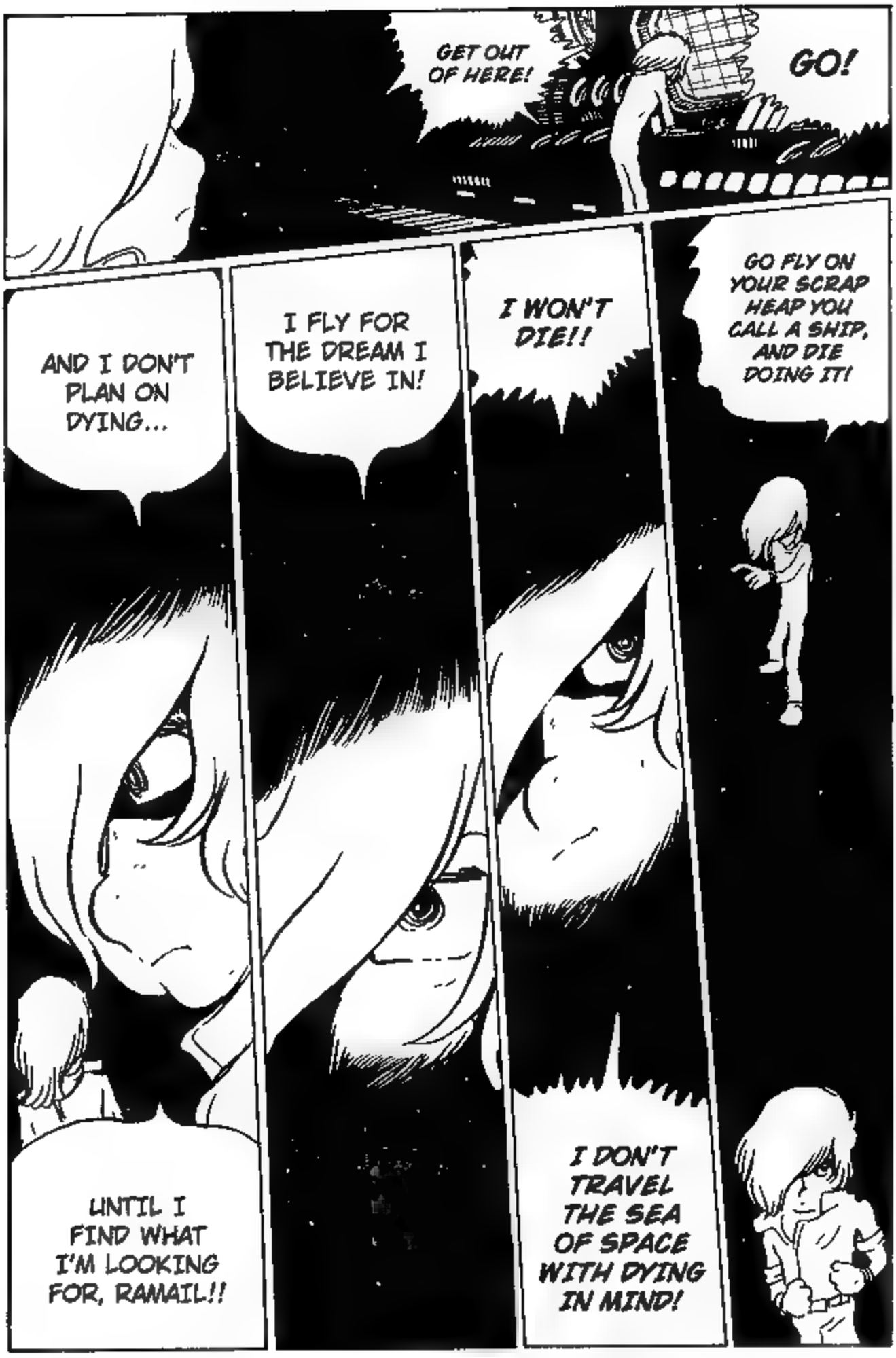

I DESTROYED THEM ALL!! THEY WOULD HAVE TARNISHED MY REPUTATION AS AN DESIGNER IF I HELD ON TO THEM!
WHAT DID YOU DO WITH THEM?
BUT . THEY WERE ALL IMPERFECT.. I HAD NO CONFIDENCE THAT THEY COULD FLY THROUGH SPACE...

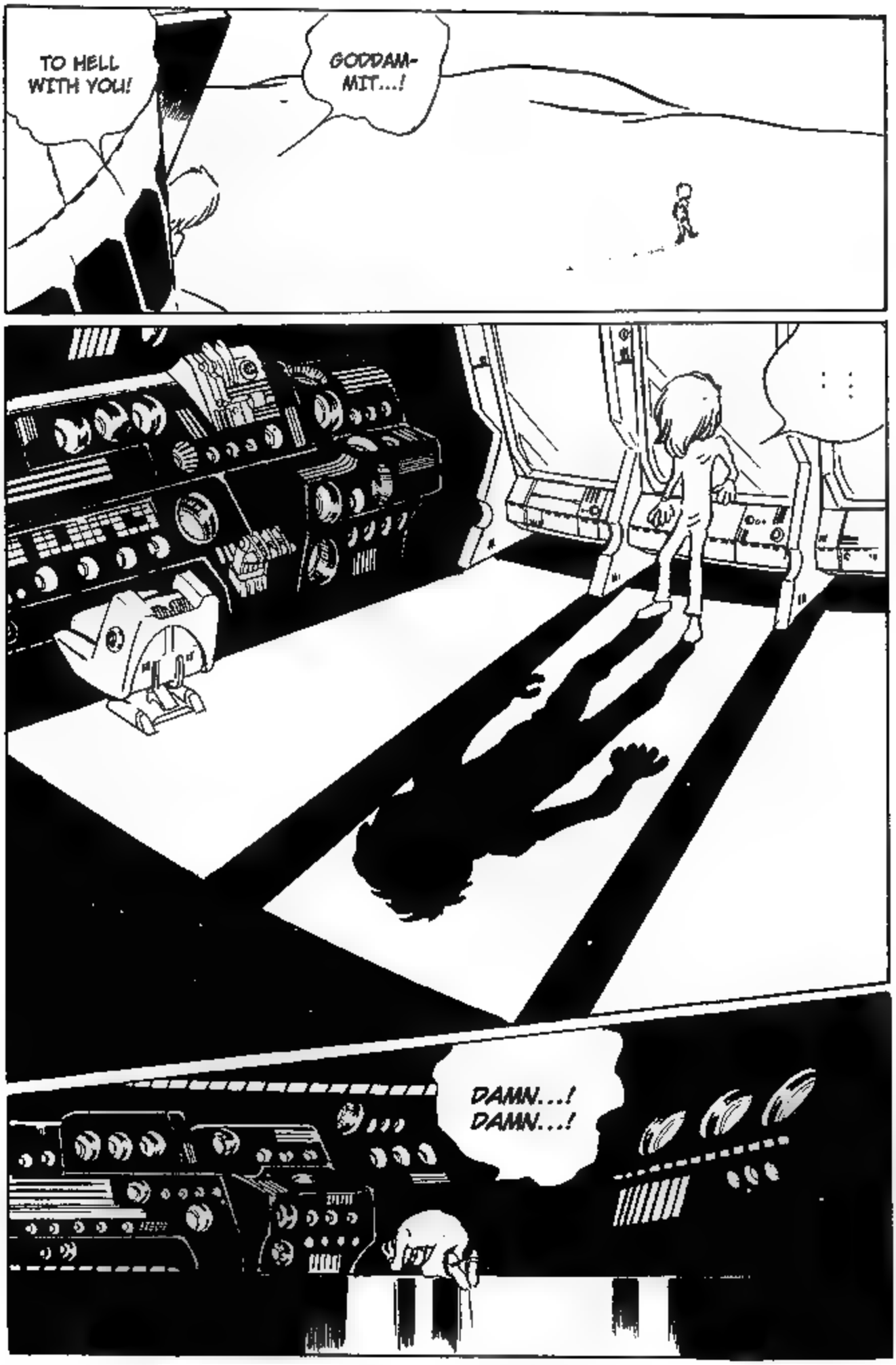

THIS IS THE INTERSTELLER SPACESHIP MODEL ZP700 MOTHER STAR THAT I'M DESIGNING NOW.
ONCE THIS IS COMPLETED, IT WILL ALLOW FOR SAFER SPACE TRAVEL.

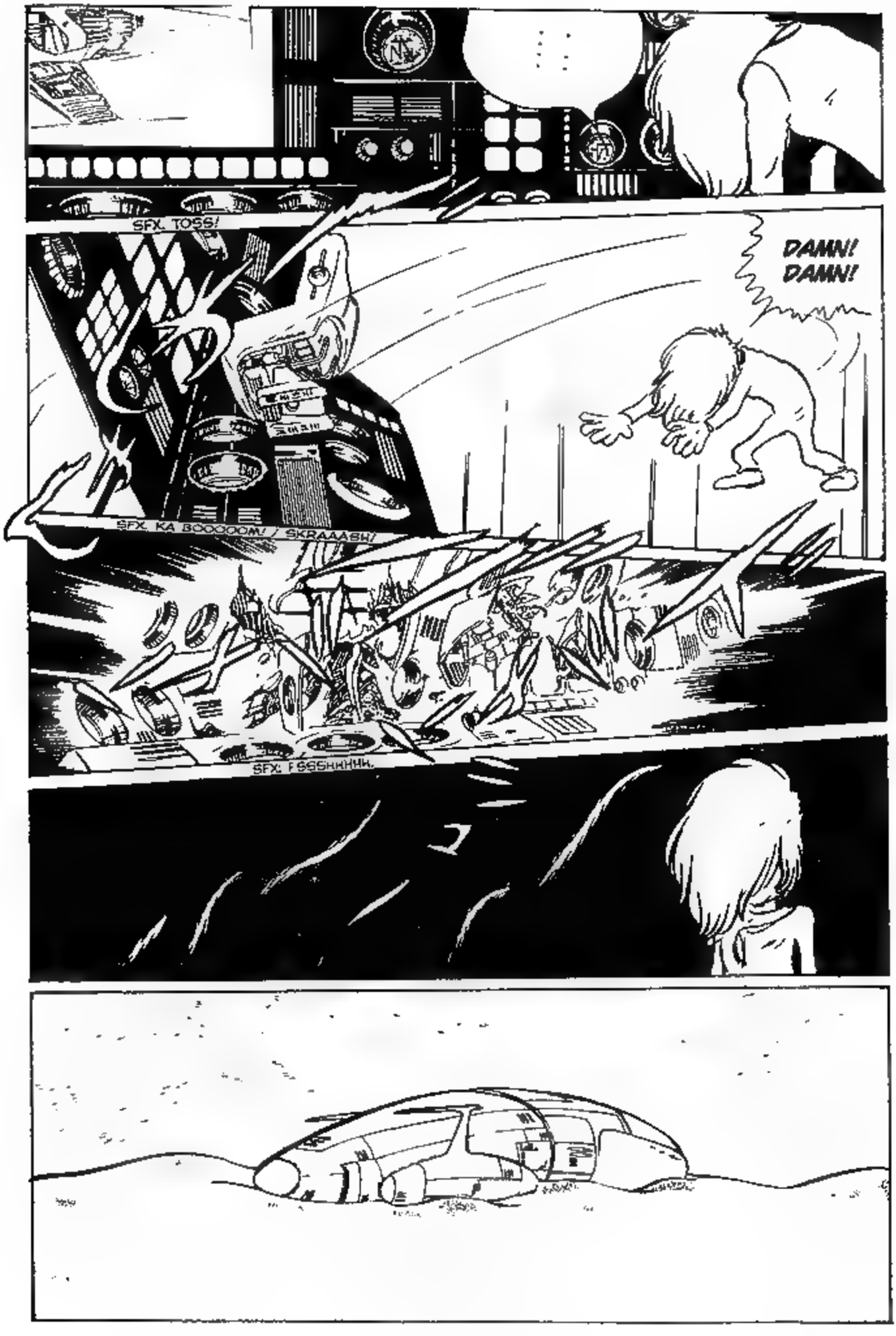

IT TAKES A LONG TIME TO BUILD IT!
I STILL DON'T KNOW!
WHEN WILL IT BE READY? WHEN WILL YOU BE ABLE TO VENTURE OUT IN SPACE?
THAT'S HOW HARD IT IS TO DESIGN A SPACE-SHIP!
EVEN WITH THE BIGGEST COMPUTER THERE IS, THE CALCULATIONS TAKE A WHOLE YEAR!
IT MADE IT WITHOUT EVEN USING A COMPUTER.
BUT MY SHIP MADE IT ALL THIS WAY.
I WANT TO TRAVEL THROUGH SPACE WHILE I'M STILL YOUNG AND CAN WITHSTAND INJURY.
I'M FINE WITH HOLES IN THE HULL. I'M FINE WITH A RATTLING ENGINE.
THAT'S NOT FOR ME.
IF I WERE LIKE YOU, I'D SPEND ALL MY TIME AT HOME, GETTING OLD AND DYING BEFORE I GOT TO DO ANYTHING

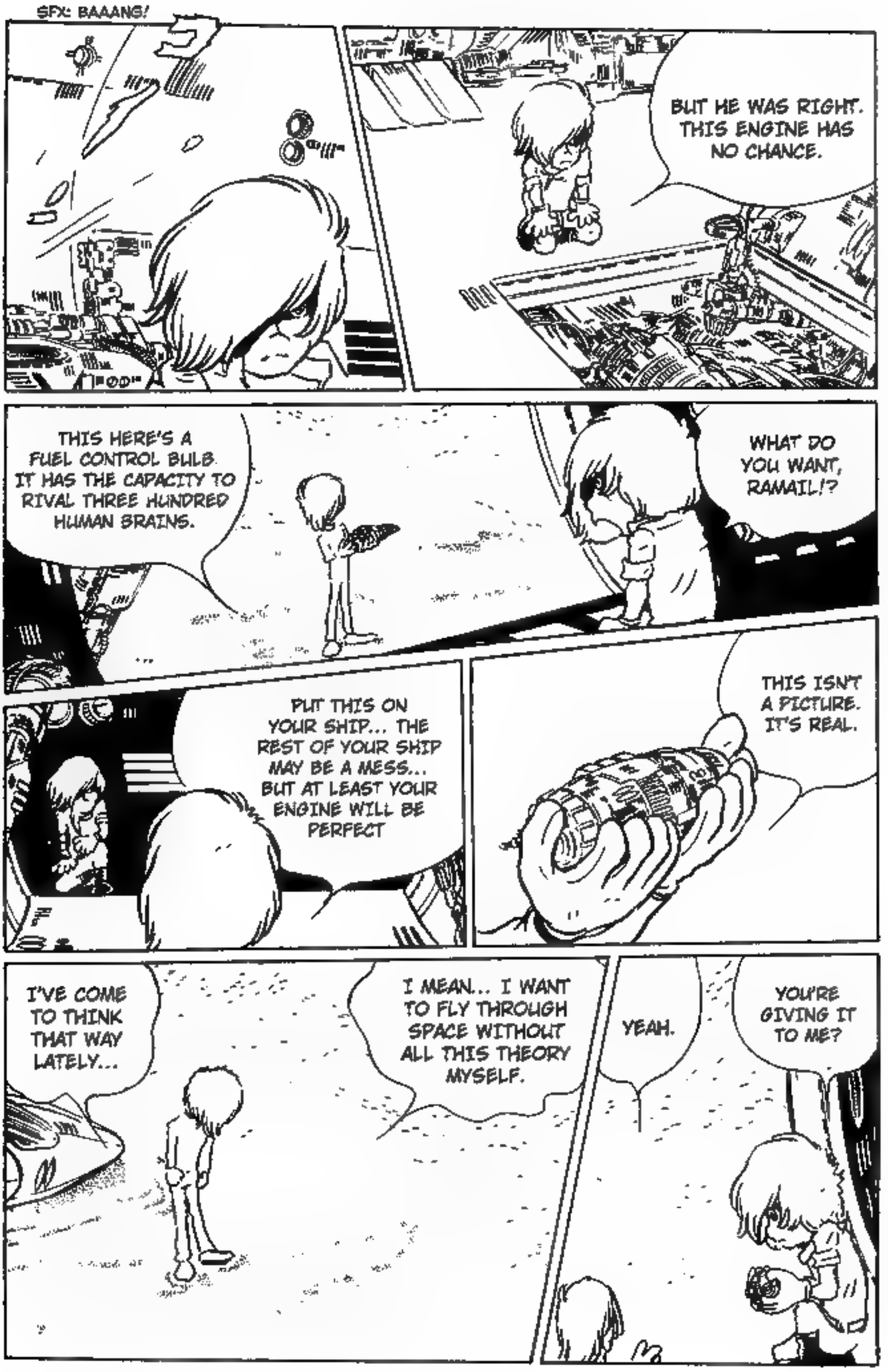

ARE YOU SERIOUS?
I WOULD BE HAPPY TO DIE FOR THAT.
OF COURSE I AM!!
I HAVE PLENTY OF TIME AHEAD OF ME!!
I HAVE A FUTURE!
BUT I DON'T HAVE TIME TO LOITER AROUND IN MY HOME OR LABORATORY!
I'D RATHER SPEND MY TIME TRAVELING THE SEA OF SPACE!!

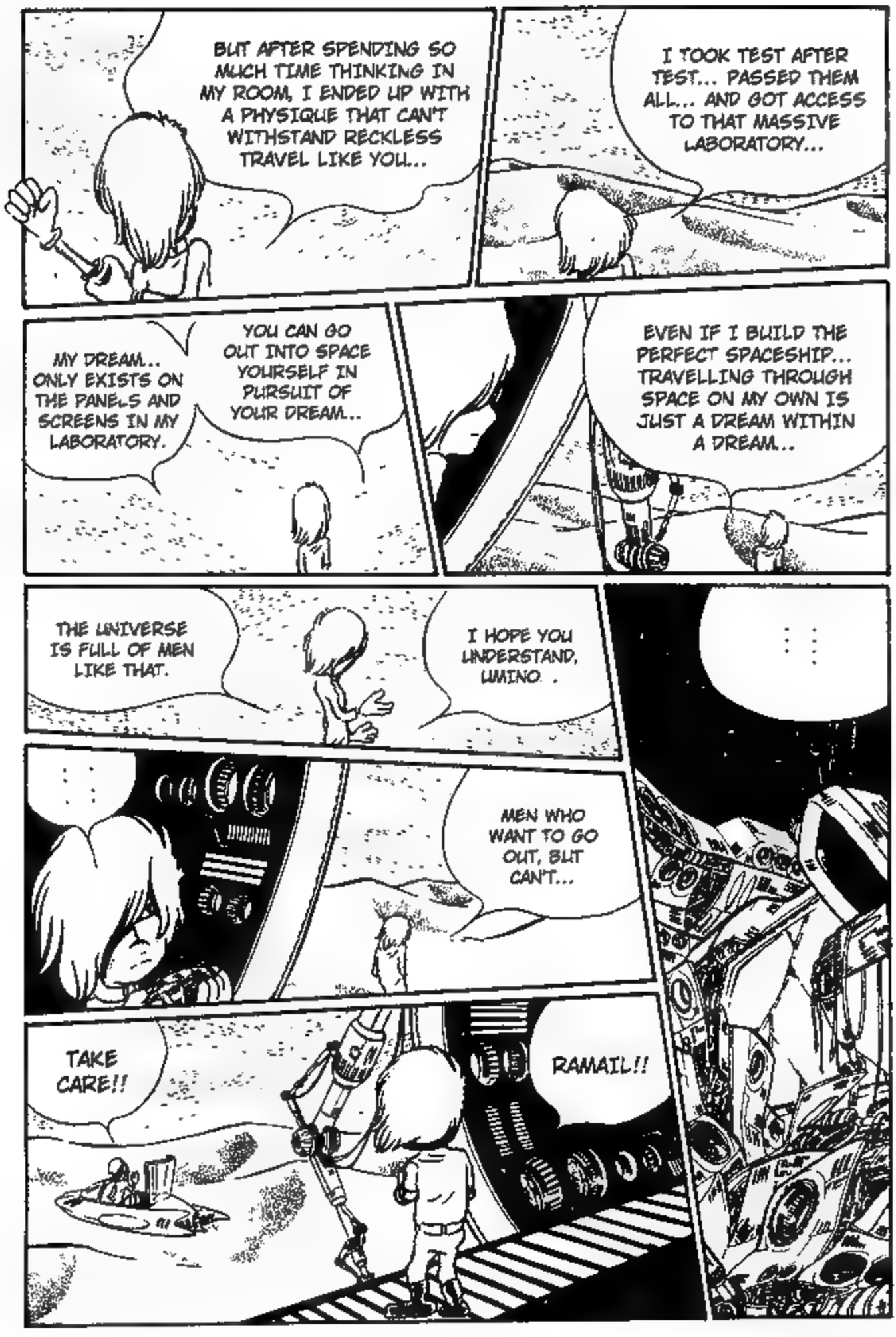

THIS LABORATORY JUST SEEMS LIKE A TOY TO ME.
A BLUEPRINT OF A SPACESHIP ISN'T ANY MORE THAN A DRAWING.
IT WON'T EVER FLY.
BUT THE SEA OF SPACE IS REAL. IT'S REALLY OUT THERE.
YOU CAN'T FLY ON A DRAWING OF A SHIP.
AM I RIGHT, RAMAIL?
BUT MY SHIP COULD.

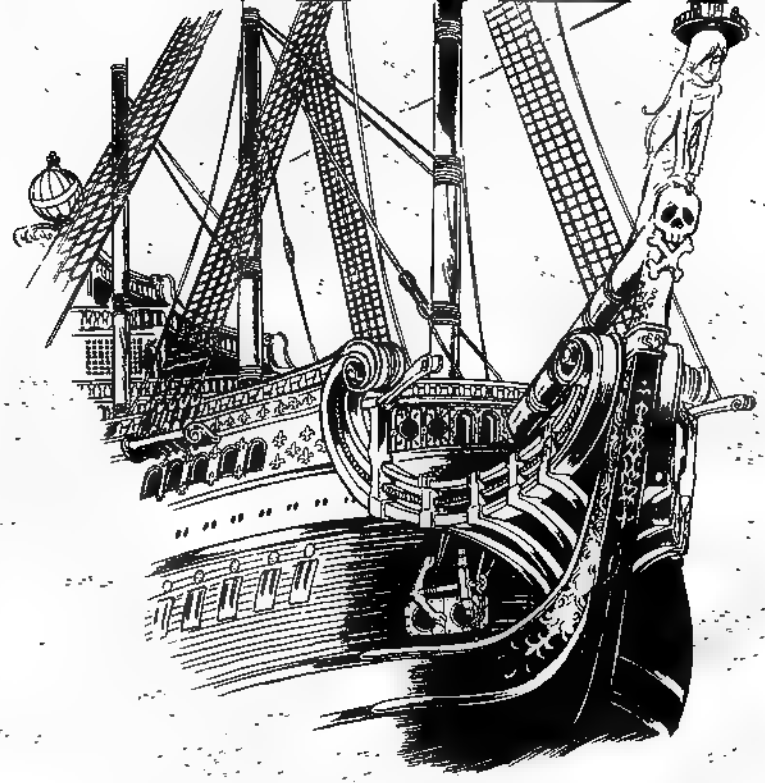

GET OUT OF HERE!
GO!
GO FLY ON YOUR SCRAP HEAP YOU CALL A SHIP, AND DIE DOING IT!
I WON'T DIE!!
I FLY FOR THE DREAM I BELIEVE IN!
AND I DON'T PLAN ON DYING...
I DON'T TRAVEL THE SEA OF SPACE WITH DYING IN MIND!
UNTIL I FIND WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR, RAMAIL!!


TO HELL WITH YOU!
GODDAM-MIT...!
DAMN...!
DAMN...!

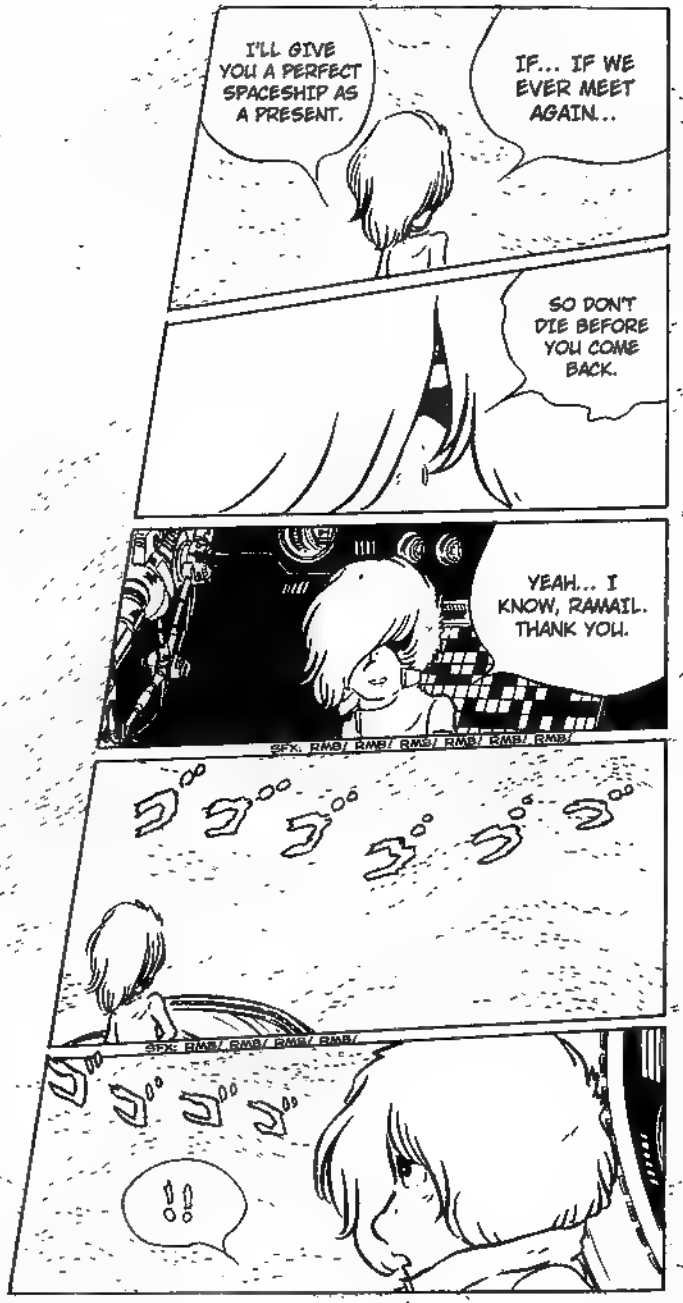

SFX. TOSS!
DAMN!
DAMN!
SFX. KA BOOOOOM! / SKRAAASH!
SFX. FSSSHHHHH.


SFX: BAAANG!
BUT HE WAS RIGHT. THIS ENGINE HAS NO CHANCE.
THIS HERE'S A FUEL CONTROL BULB. IT HAS THE CAPACITY TO RIVAL THREE HUNDRED HUMAN BRAINS.
WHAT DO YOU WANT, RAMAIL!?
PUT THIS ON YOUR SHIP... THE REST OF YOUR SHIP MAY BE A MESS... BUT AT LEAST YOUR ENGINE WILL BE PERFECT
THIS ISN'T A PICTURE. IT'S REAL.
I'VE COME TO THINK THAT WAY LATELY...
I MEAN... I WANT TO FLY THROUGH SPACE WITHOUT ALL THIS THEORY MYSELF.
YEAH.
YOU'RE GIVING IT TO ME?


BUT AFTER SPENDING SO MUCH TIME THINKING IN MY ROOM, I ENDED UP WITH A PHYSIQUE THAT CAN'T WITHSTAND RECKLESS TRAVEL LIKE YOU...
I TOOK TEST AFTER TEST... PASSED THEM ALL... AND GOT ACCESS TO THAT MASSIVE LABORATORY...
MY DREAM... ONLY EXISTS ON THE PANELS AND SCREENS IN MY LABORATORY.
YOU CAN GO OUT INTO SPACE YOURSELF IN PURSUIT OF YOUR DREAM...
EVEN IF I BUILD THE PERFECT SPACESHIP... TRAVELLING THROUGH SPACE ON MY OWN IS JUST A DREAM WITHIN A DREAM...
THE UNIVERSE IS FULL OF MEN LIKE THAT.
I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND, UMINO.
MEN WHO WANT TO GO OUT, BUT CAN'T...
TAKE CARE!!
RAMAIL!!

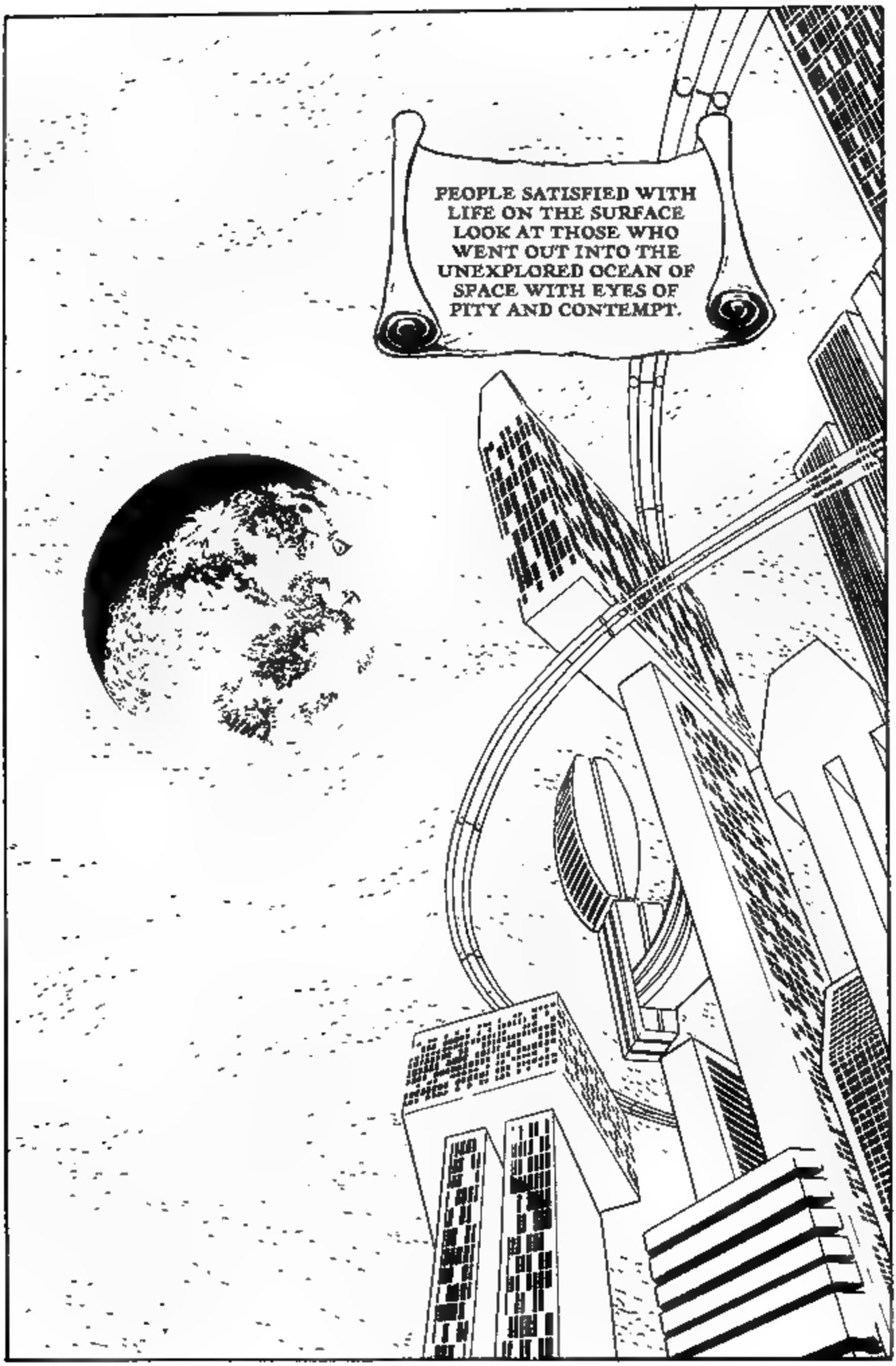


SFX: RMB/ RMB/ RMB/ RMB/ RMB/ RMB/


I'LL GIVE YOU A PERFECT SPACESHIP AS A PRESENT.
IF... IF WE EVER MEET AGAIN...
SO DON'T DIE BEFORE YOU COME BACK.
YEAH... I KNOW, RAMAIL. THANK YOU.
SFX: RMB/ RMB/ RMB/ RMB/ RMB/ RMB/
SFX: RMB/ RMB/ RMB/ RMB/
!!

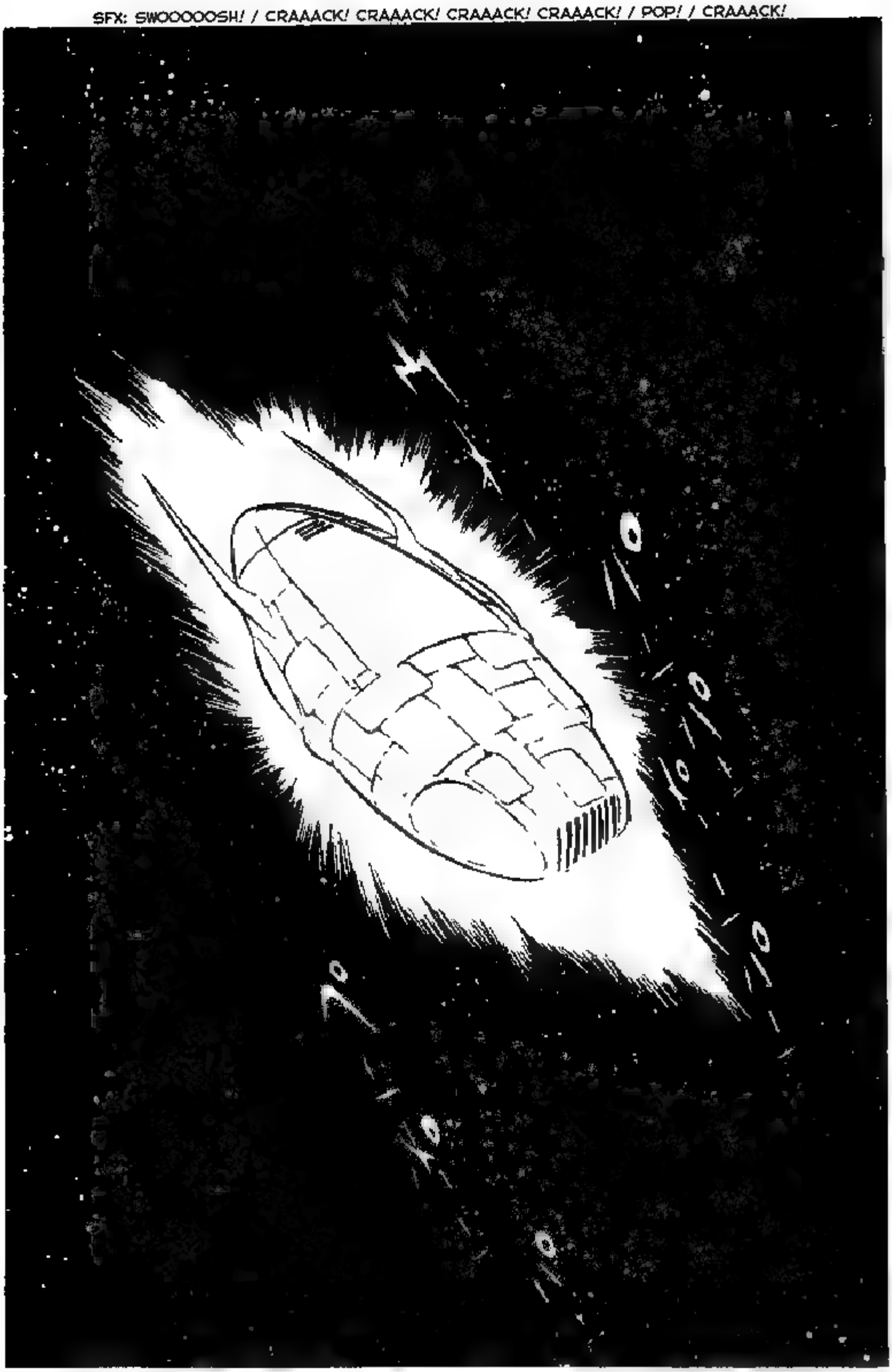
I AM EMERALDUS... AND IF UMINO HIROSHI KNEW WHAT I WAS SEARCHING FOR... HE WOULD TRY TO KILL ME. I AM THE WITCH OF THE UNIVERSE, WANDERING THE ETERNAL SEA...

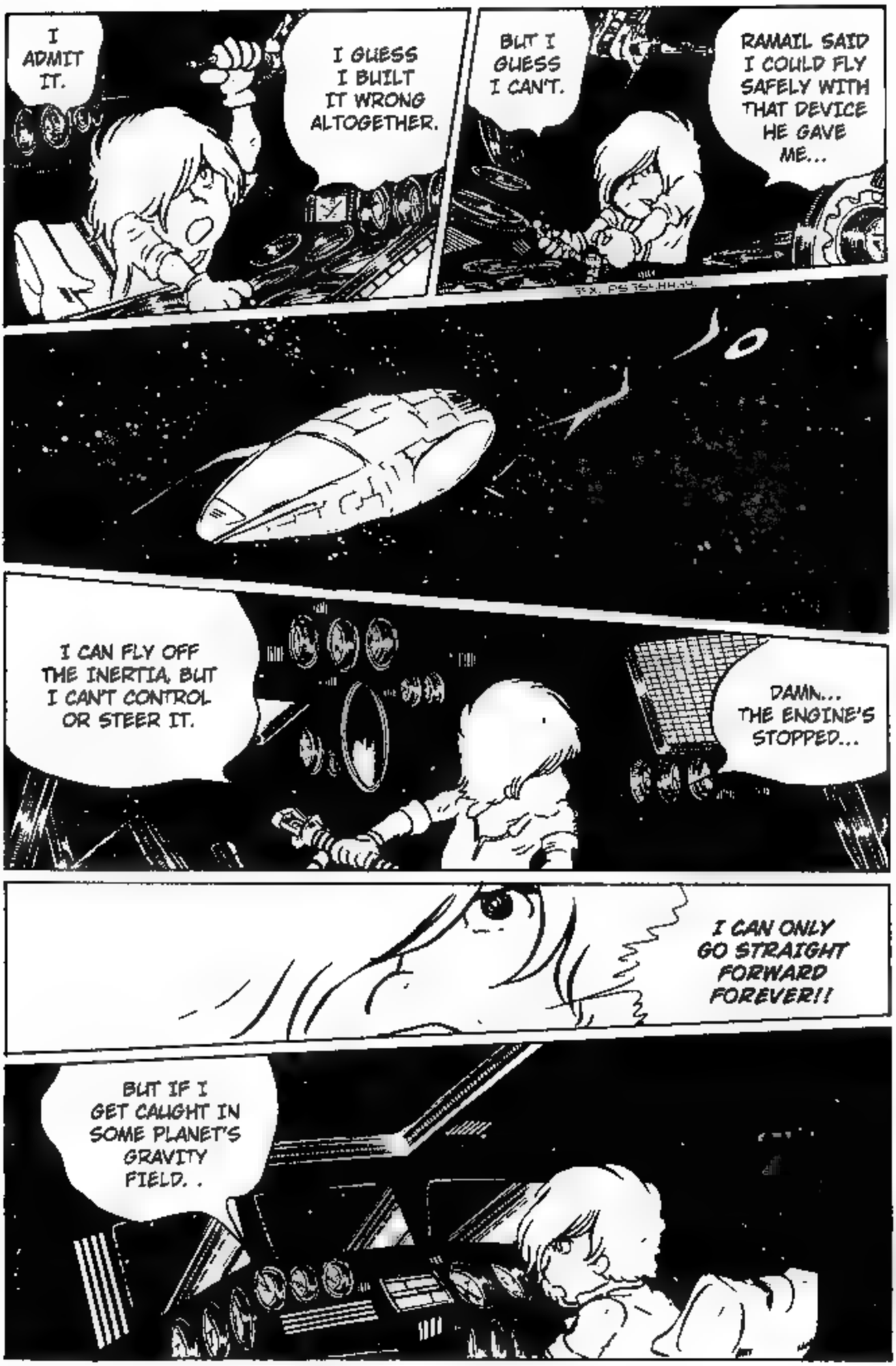
SFX: FWOOOOOSH!

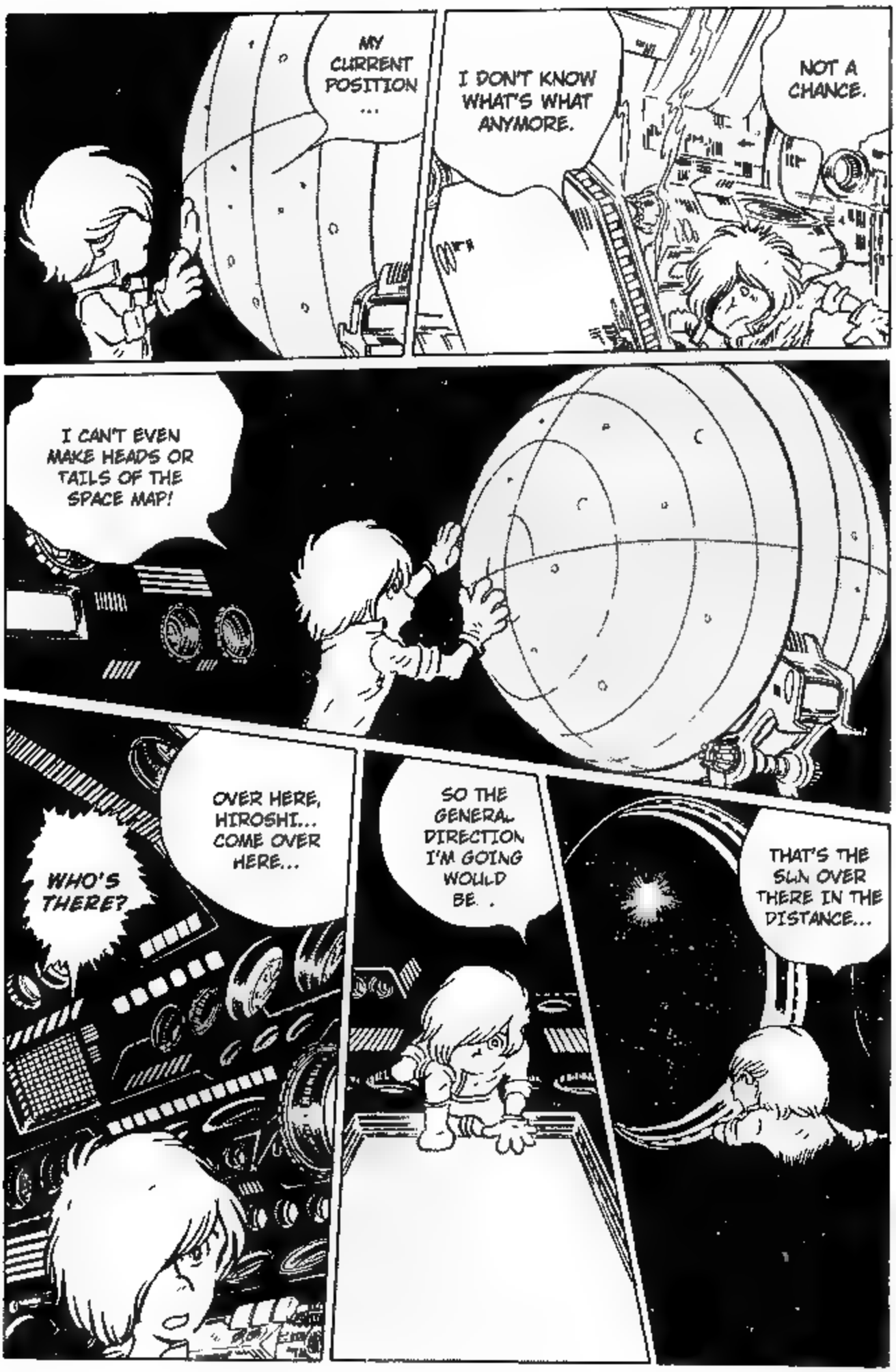

PEOPLE SATISFIED WITH LIFE ON THE SURFACE LOOK AT THOSE WHO WENT OUT INTO THE UNEXPLORED OCEAN OF SPACE WITH EYES OF PITY AND CONTEMPT.

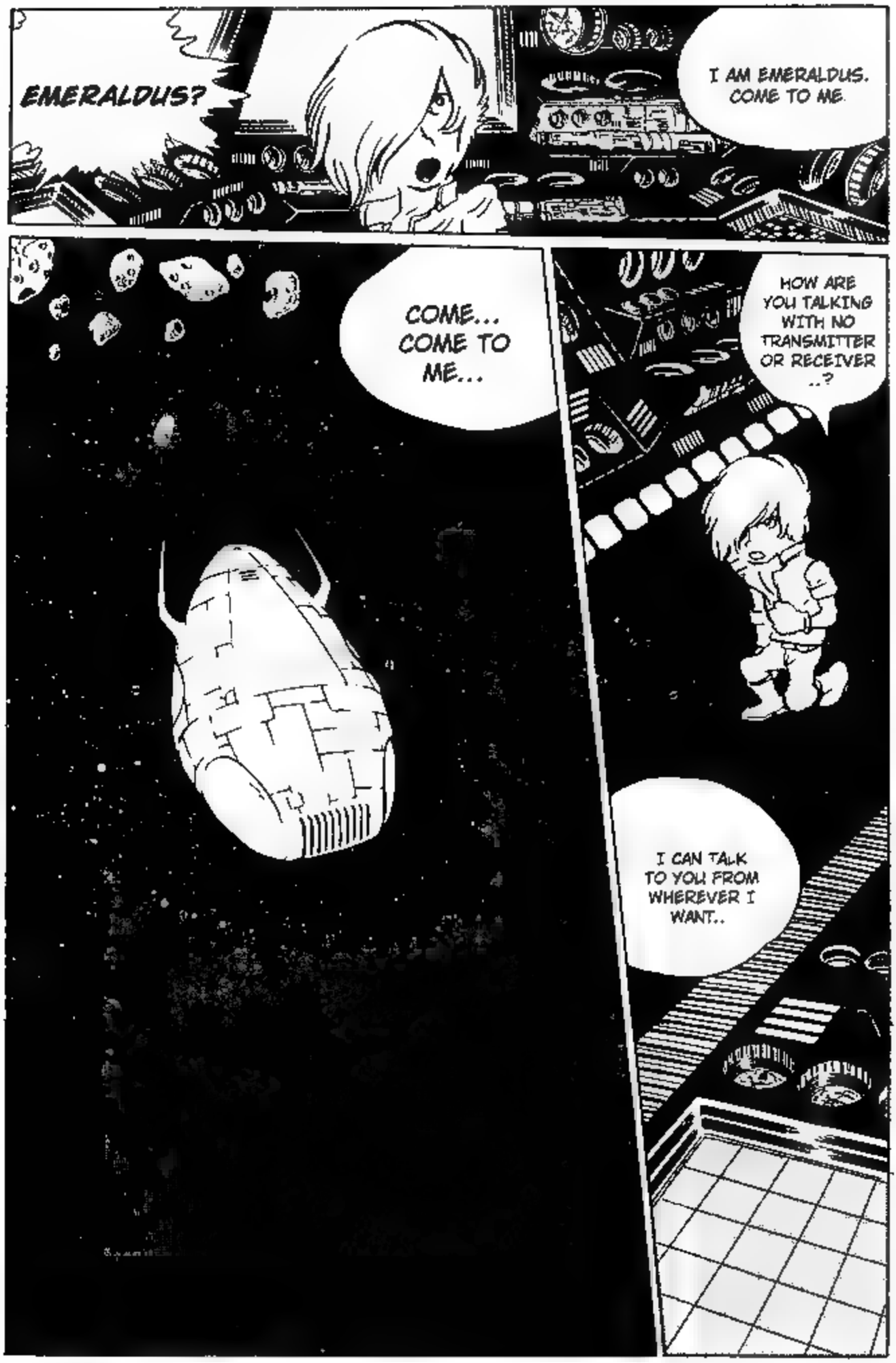
I AM EMERALDUS AND I CANNOT UNDERSTAND HUMANS WHO LIVE LIKE MOSS, CLINGING TO THE GROUND, CHAINED DOWN BY GRAVITY

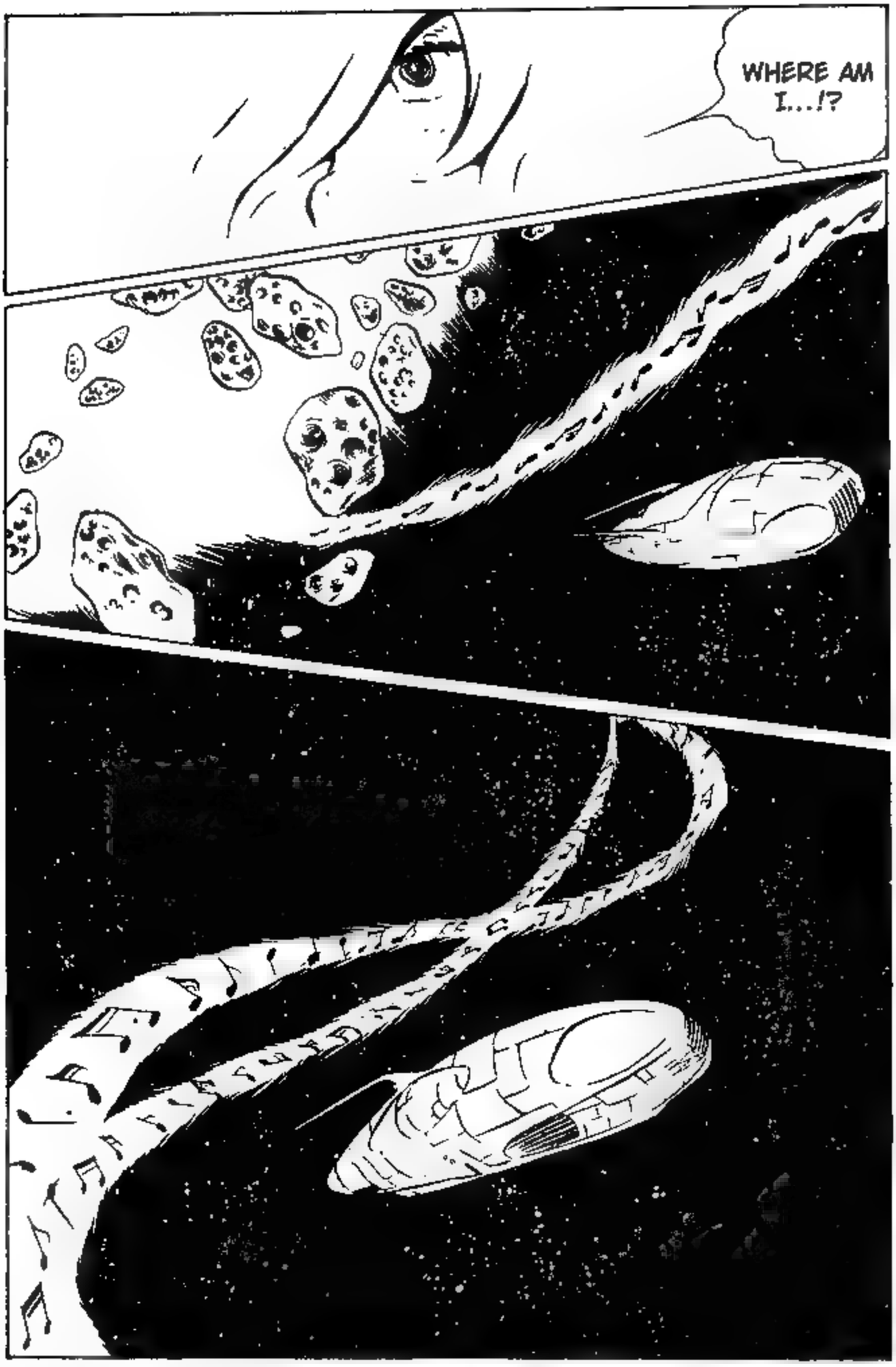
SFX: SWOOOOOSH! / CRAAACK! CRAAACK! CRAAACK! CRAAACK! / POP! / CRAAACK!




I ADMIT IT.
I GUESS I BUILT IT WRONG ALTOGETHER.
BUT I GUESS I CAN'T.
RAMAIL SAID I COULD FLY SAFELY WITH THAT DEVICE HE GAVE ME...
I CAN FLY OFF THE INERTIA, BUT I CAN'T CONTROL OR STEER IT.
DAMN... THE ENGINE'S STOPPED...
I CAN ONLY GO STRAIGHT FORWARD FOREVER!!
BUT IF I GET CAUGHT IN SOME PLANET'S GRAVITY FIELD. .

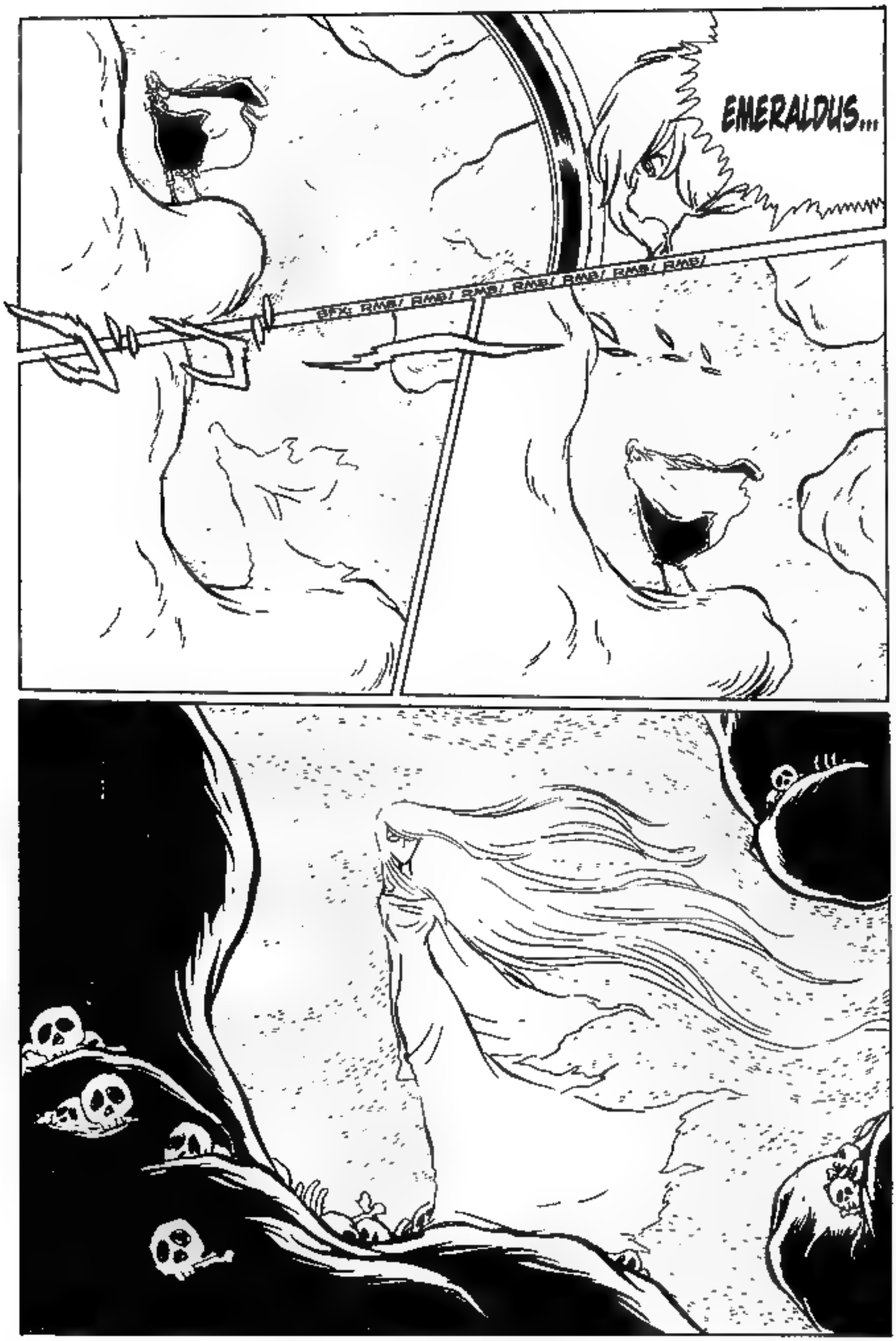

MY CURRENT POSITION ...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WHAT ANYMORE.
NOT A CHANCE.
I CAN'T EVEN MAKE HEADS OR TAILS OF THE SPACE MAP!
WHO'S THERE?
OVER HERE, HIROSHI... COME OVER HERE...
SO THE GENERAL DIRECTION I'M GOING WOULD BE. .
THAT'S THE SUN OVER THERE IN THE DISTANCE...

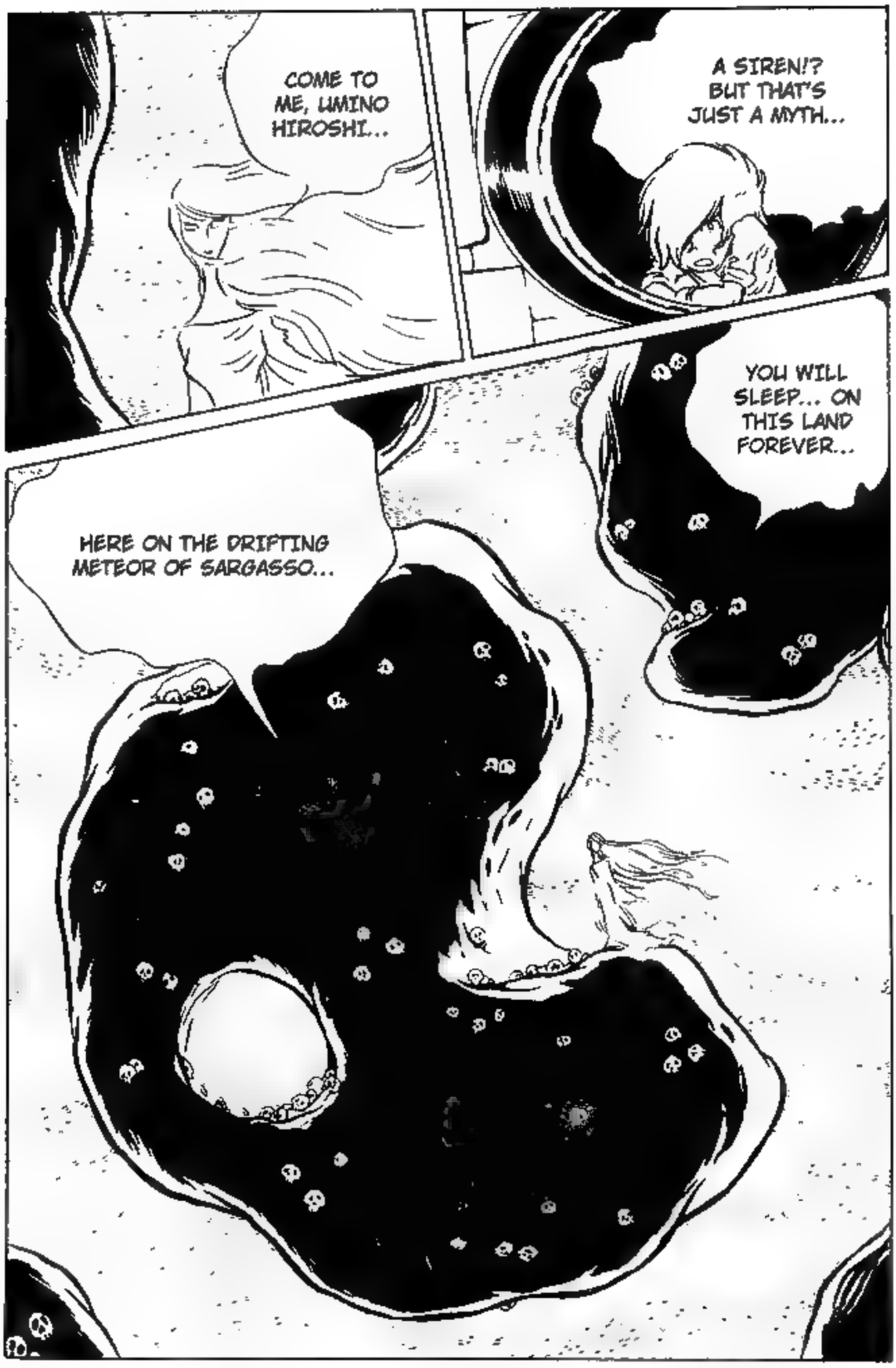

EMERALDUS?
I AM EMERALDUS. COME TO ME.
COME... COME TO ME...
HOW ARE YOU TALKING WITH NO TRANSMITTER OR RECEIVER ..?
I CAN TALK TO YOU FROM WHEREVER I WANT..


WHERE AM I...!?

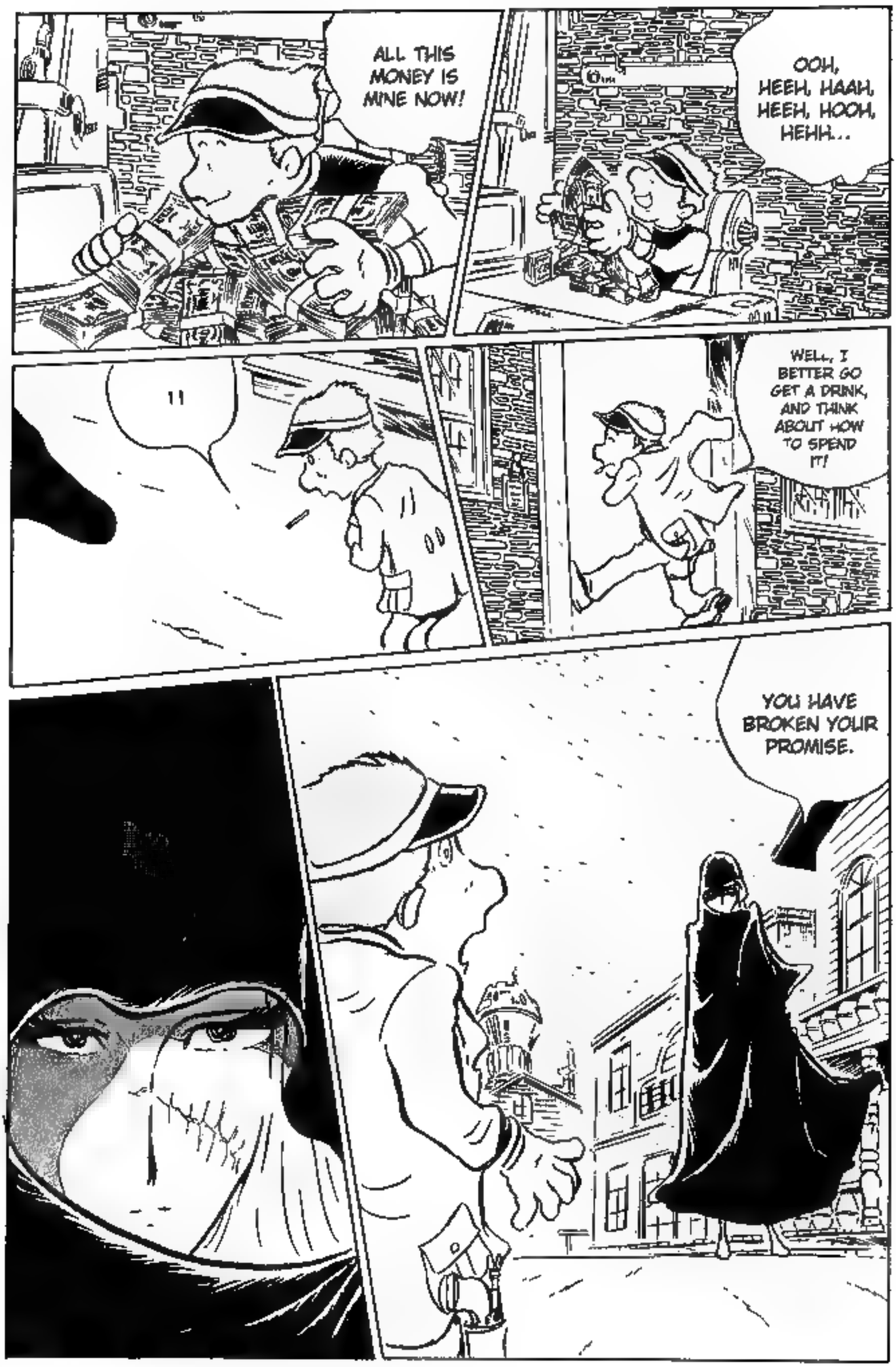
THAT SINGING...
THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH THAT SING-ING...
IT'S GOING THROUGH THE SHIP'S PLATING... BESIDES, SOUND WAVES SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO CARRY THROUGH THE VACUUM OF SPACE...
IT'S... THE VOICE OF A GRAVITY WAVE!!

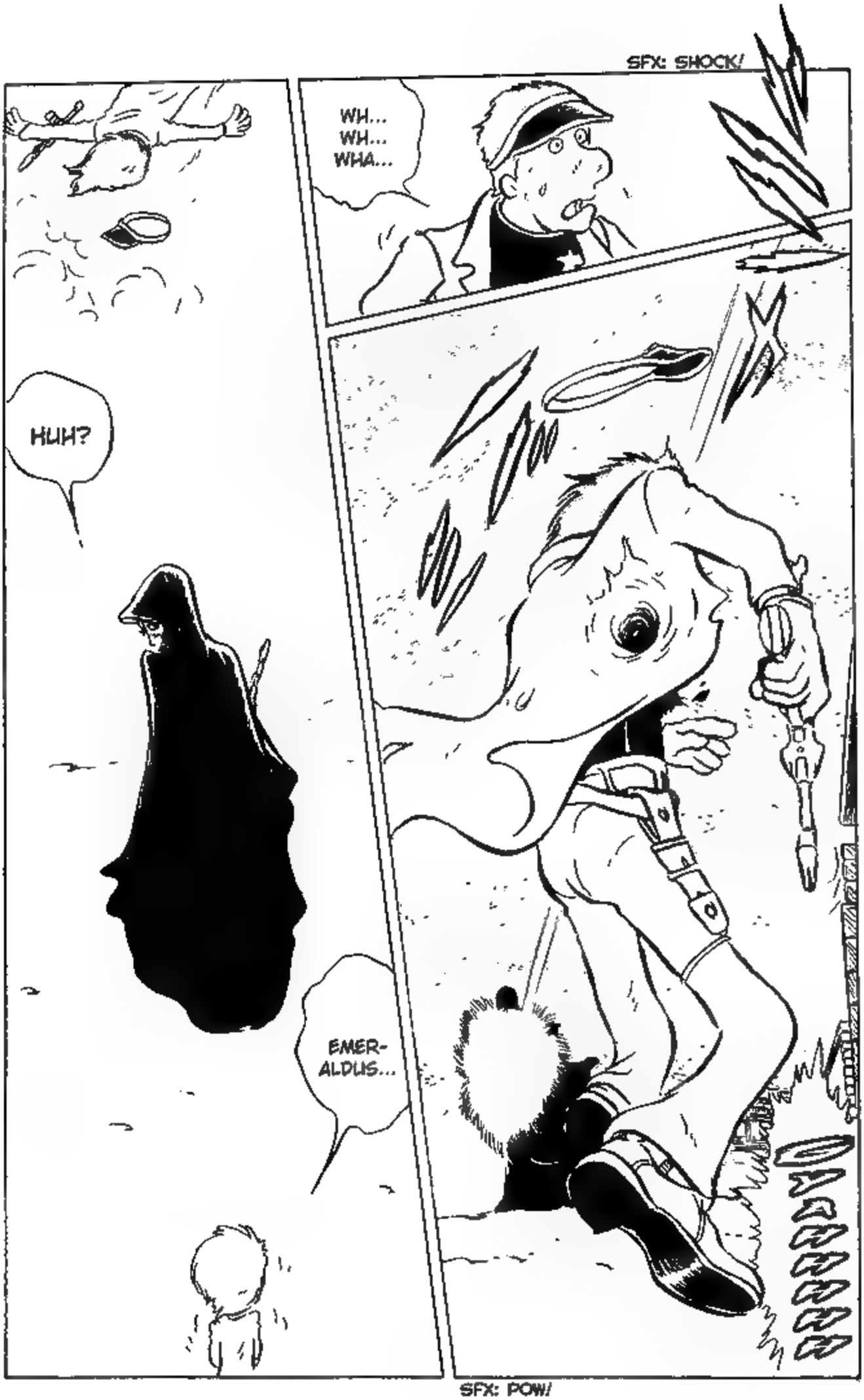
SFX: RMB! RMB! RMB! RMB! RMB! RMB! RMB!

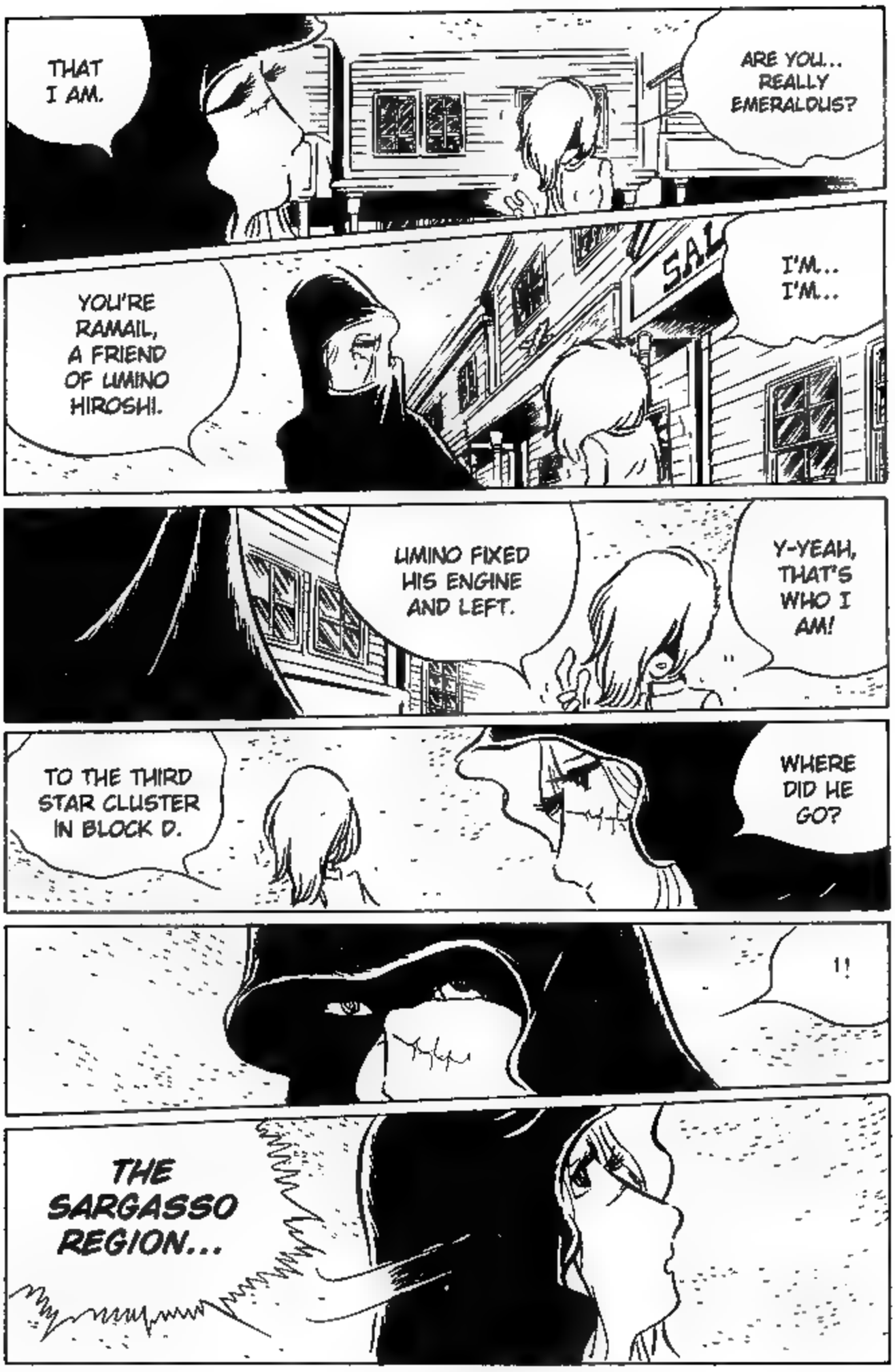

EMERALDUS...
SFX: RMB! RMB! RMB! RMB! RMB! RMB! RMB!

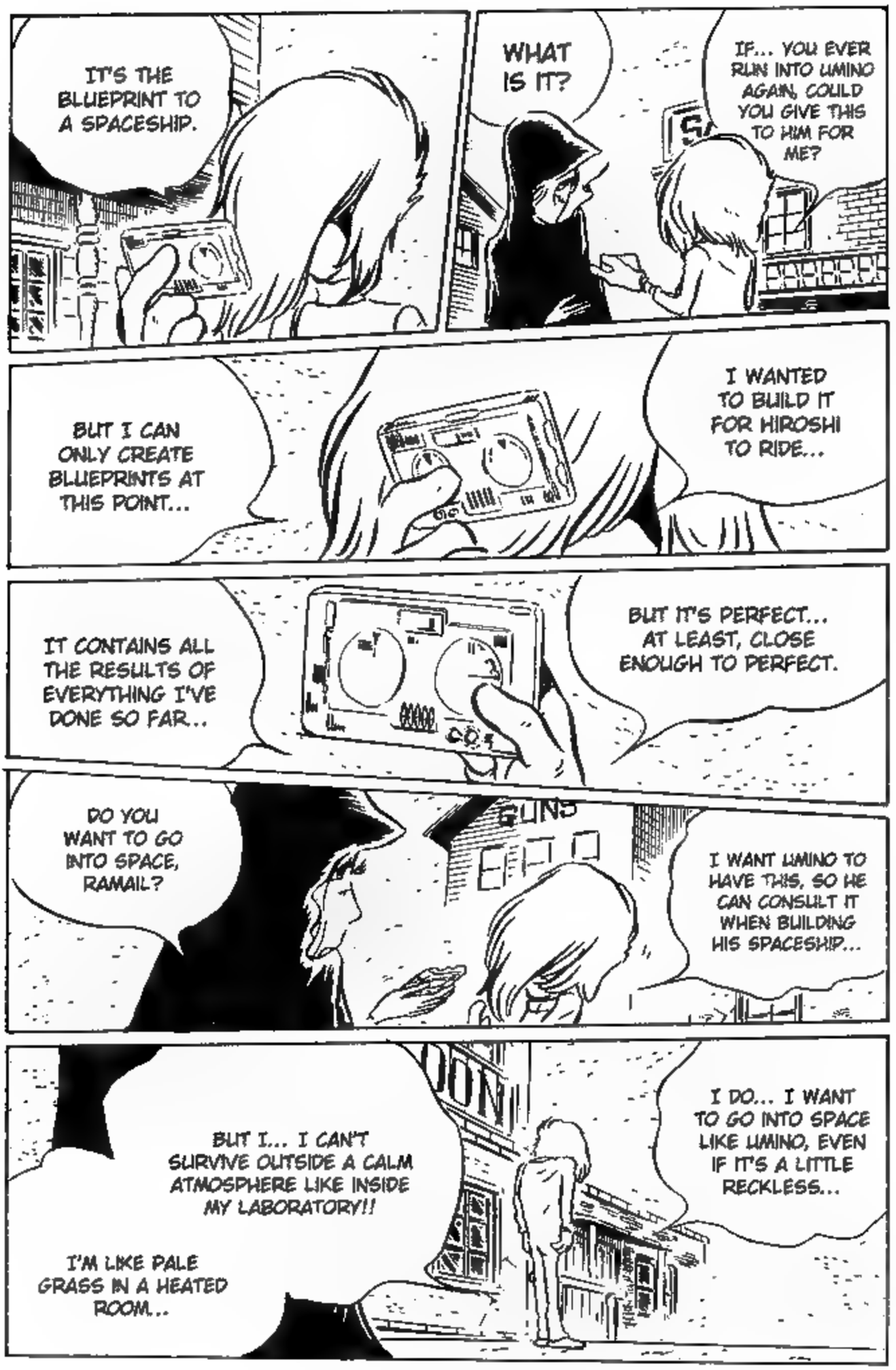

COME TO ME, UMINO HIROSHI...
A SIREN!? BUT THAT'S JUST A MYTH...
YOU WILL SLEEP... ON THIS LAND FOREVER...
HERE ON THE DRIFTING METEOR OF SARGASSO...

SFX: RMB! RMB! RMB! RMB! RMB! RMB! RMB!

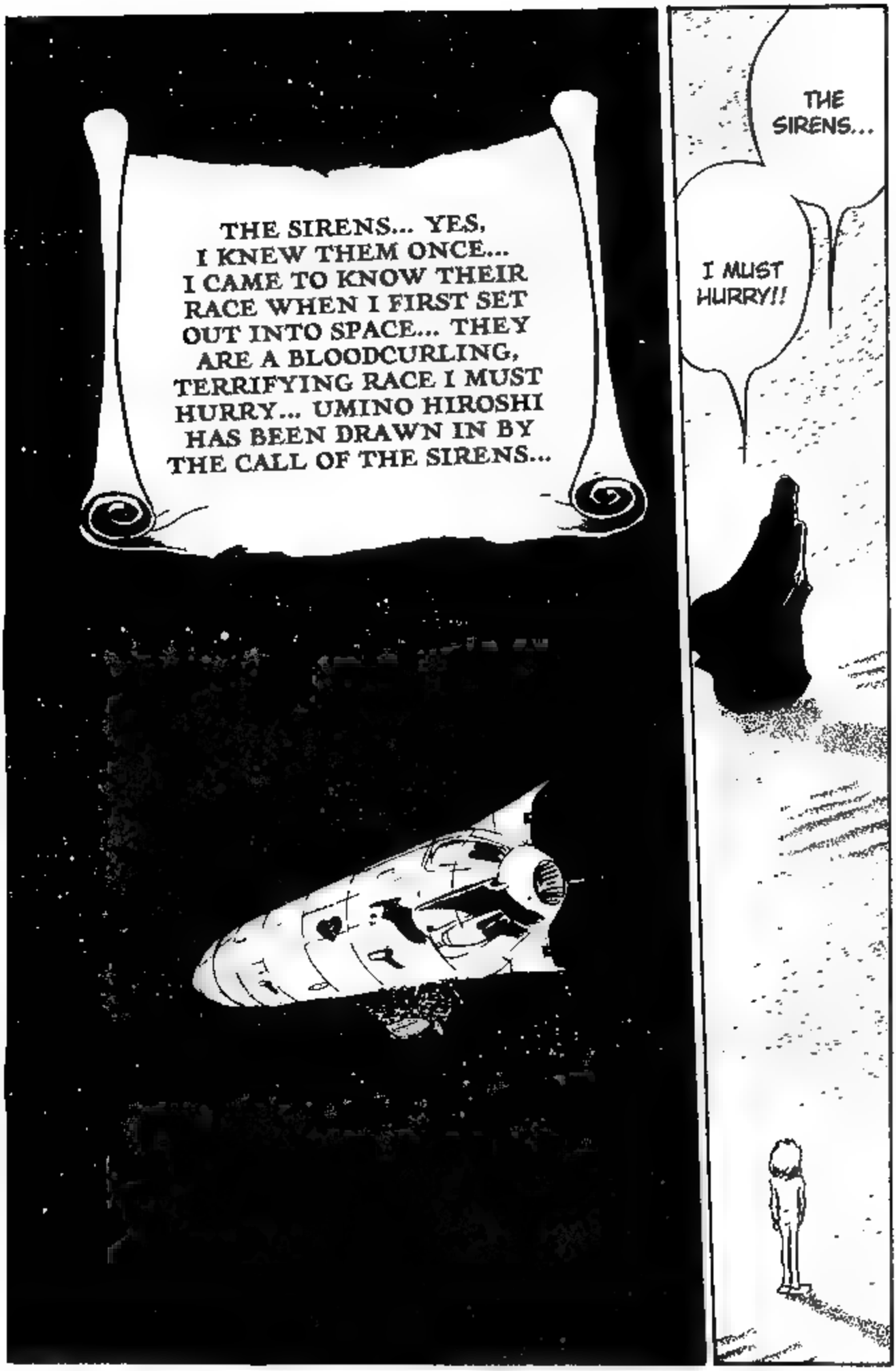

ALL THIS MONEY IS MINE NOW!
OOH, HEEH, HAAH, HEEH, HOOH, HEHH...
WELL, I BETTER GO GET A DRINK, AND THINK ABOUT HOW TO SPEND IT!
11
YOU HAVE BROKEN YOUR PROMISE.

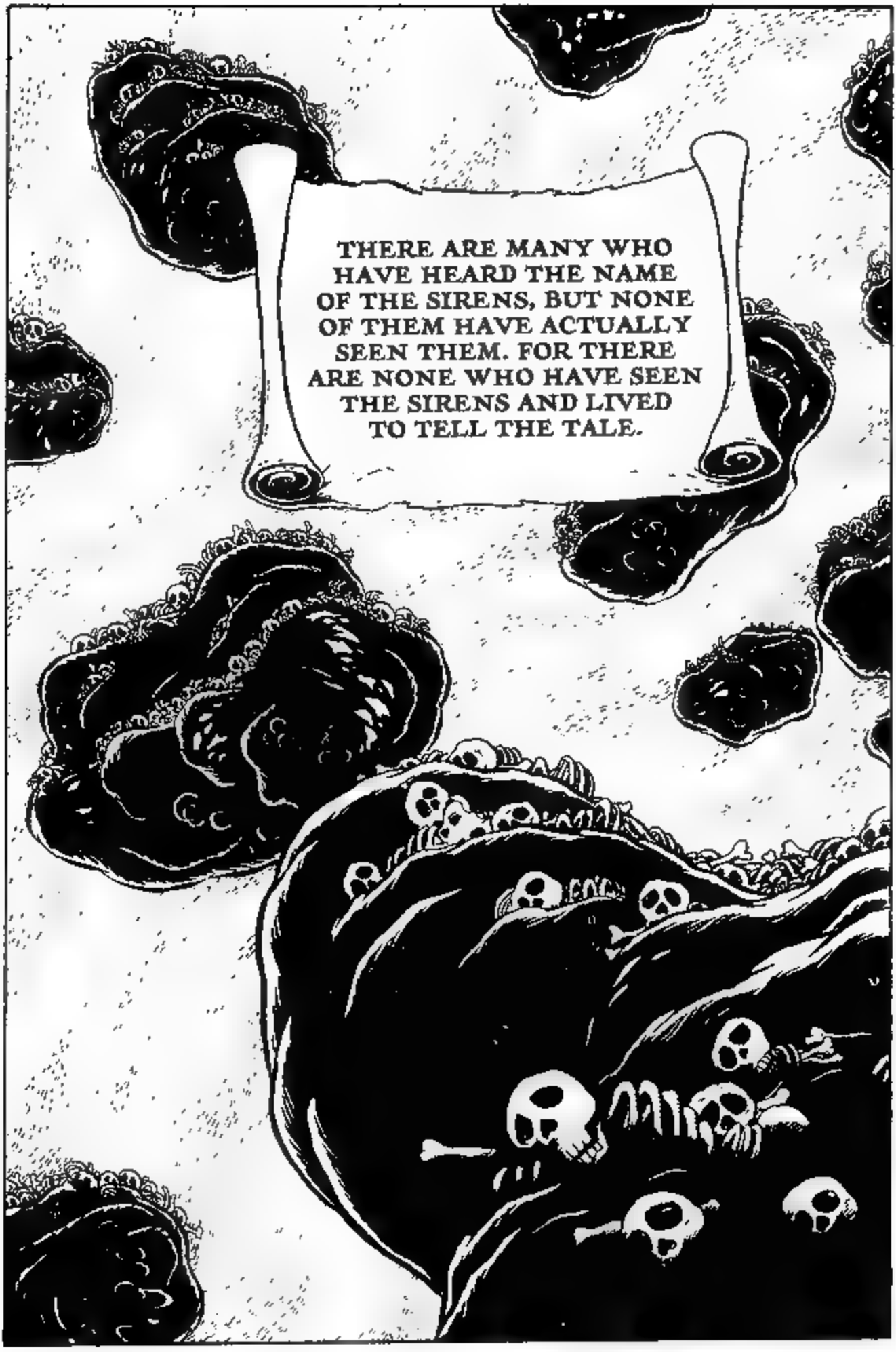

SFX: SHOCK!
WH...
WH...
WHA...
HUH?
EMER-
ALDUS...
SFX: POW!


THAT I AM.
ARE YOU... REALLY EMERALDUS?
YOU'RE RAMAIL, A FRIEND OF UMINO HIROSHI.
I'M... I'M...
UMINO FIXED HIS ENGINE AND LEFT.
Y-YEAH, THAT'S WHO I AM!
TO THE THIRD STAR CLUSTER IN BLOCK D.
WHERE DID HE GO?
!!
THE SARGASSO REGION...

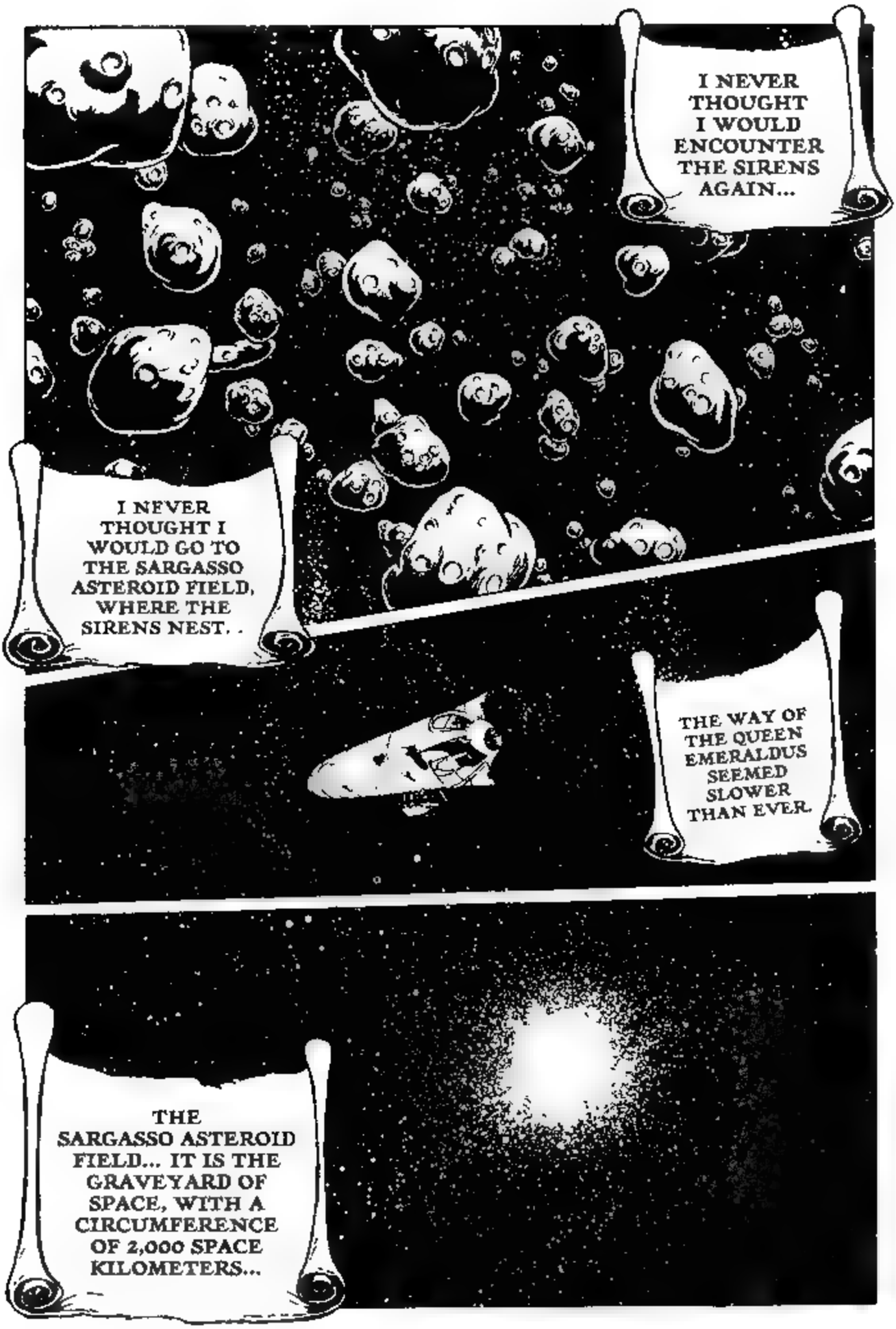

IT'S THE BLUEPRINT TO A SPACESHIP.
WHAT IS IT?
IF... YOU EVER RUN INTO UMINO AGAIN, COULD YOU GIVE THIS TO HIM FOR ME?
BUT I CAN ONLY CREATE BLUEPRINTS AT THIS POINT...
I WANTED TO BUILD IT FOR HIROSHI TO RIDE...
IT CONTAINS ALL THE RESULTS OF EVERYTHING I'VE DONE SO FAR..
BUT IT'S PERFECT... AT LEAST, CLOSE ENOUGH TO PERFECT.
DO YOU WANT TO GO INTO SPACE, RAMAIL?
I WANT UMINO TO HAVE THIS, SO HE CAN CONSULT IT WHEN BUILDING HIS SPACESHIP...
BUT I... I CAN'T SURVIVE OUTSIDE A CALM ATMOSPHERE LIKE INSIDE MY LABORATORY!!
I'M LIKE PALE GRASS IN A HEATED ROOM...
I DO... I WANT TO GO INTO SPACE LIKE UMINO, EVEN IF IT'S A LITTLE RECKLESS...

RAMAIL.
YOU ARE NOT LIKE PALE GRASS IN YOUR HEART.
I CAN TELL...
YOUR MANLY BLOOD IS BURNING LIKE FIRE, WAITING TO BLOOM INTO A CRIMSON FLOWER.
THIS IS YOUR CRIMSON BLOOD...
I WILL GIVE THIS TO UMINO.
I SWEAR..


THE SIRENS... YES, I KNEW THEM ONCE... I CAME TO KNOW THEIR RACE WHEN I FIRST SET OUT INTO SPACE... THEY ARE A BLOODCURLING, TERRIFYING RACE I MUST HURRY... UMINO HIROSHI HAS BEEN DRAWN IN BY THE CALL OF THE SIRENS...
THE SIRENS...
I MUST HURRY!!

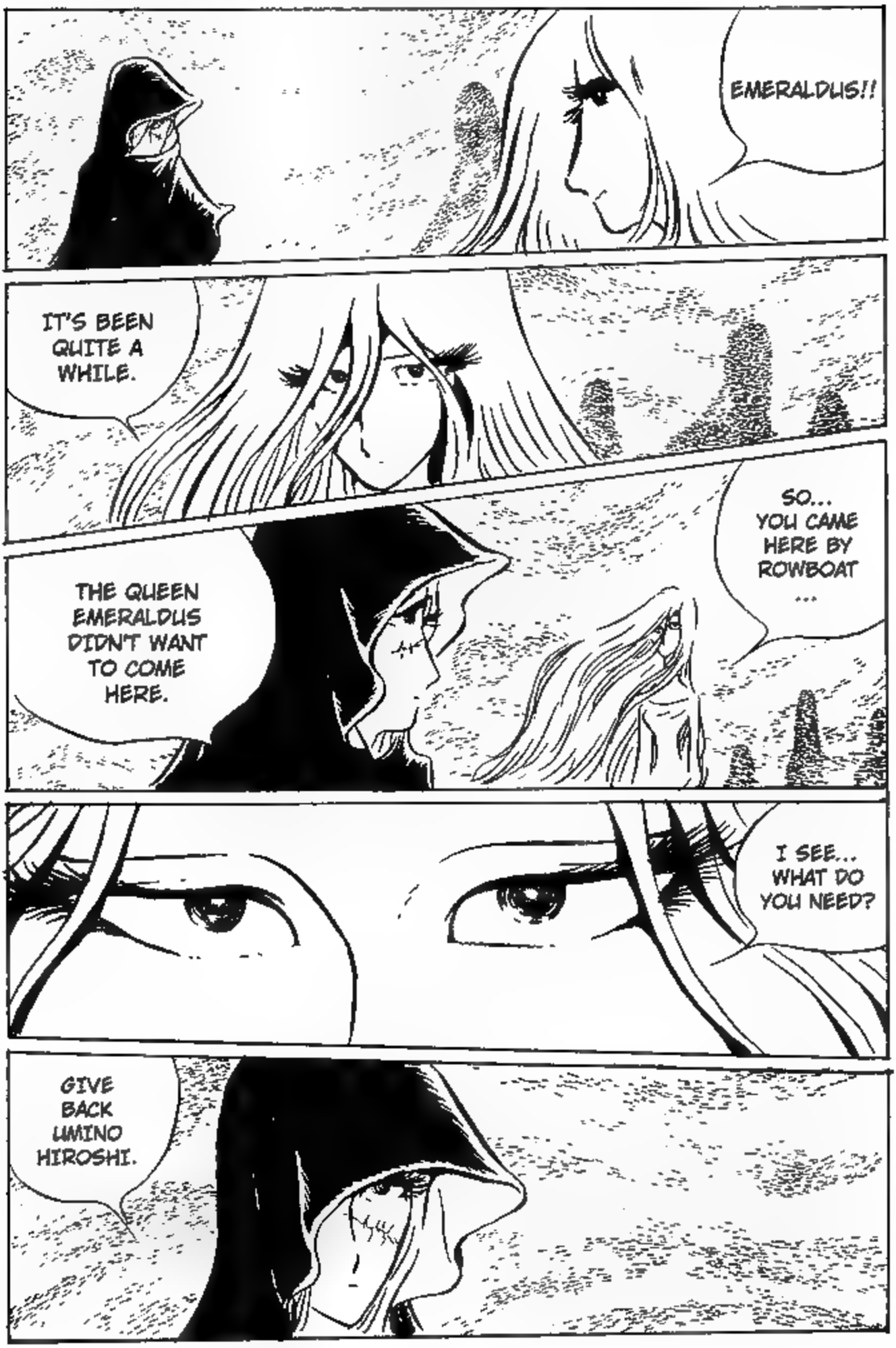

THERE ARE MANY WHO HAVE HEARD THE NAME OF THE SIRENS, BUT NONE OF THEM HAVE ACTUALLY SEEN THEM. FOR THERE ARE NONE WHO HAVE SEEN THE SIRENS AND LIVED TO TELL THE TALE.

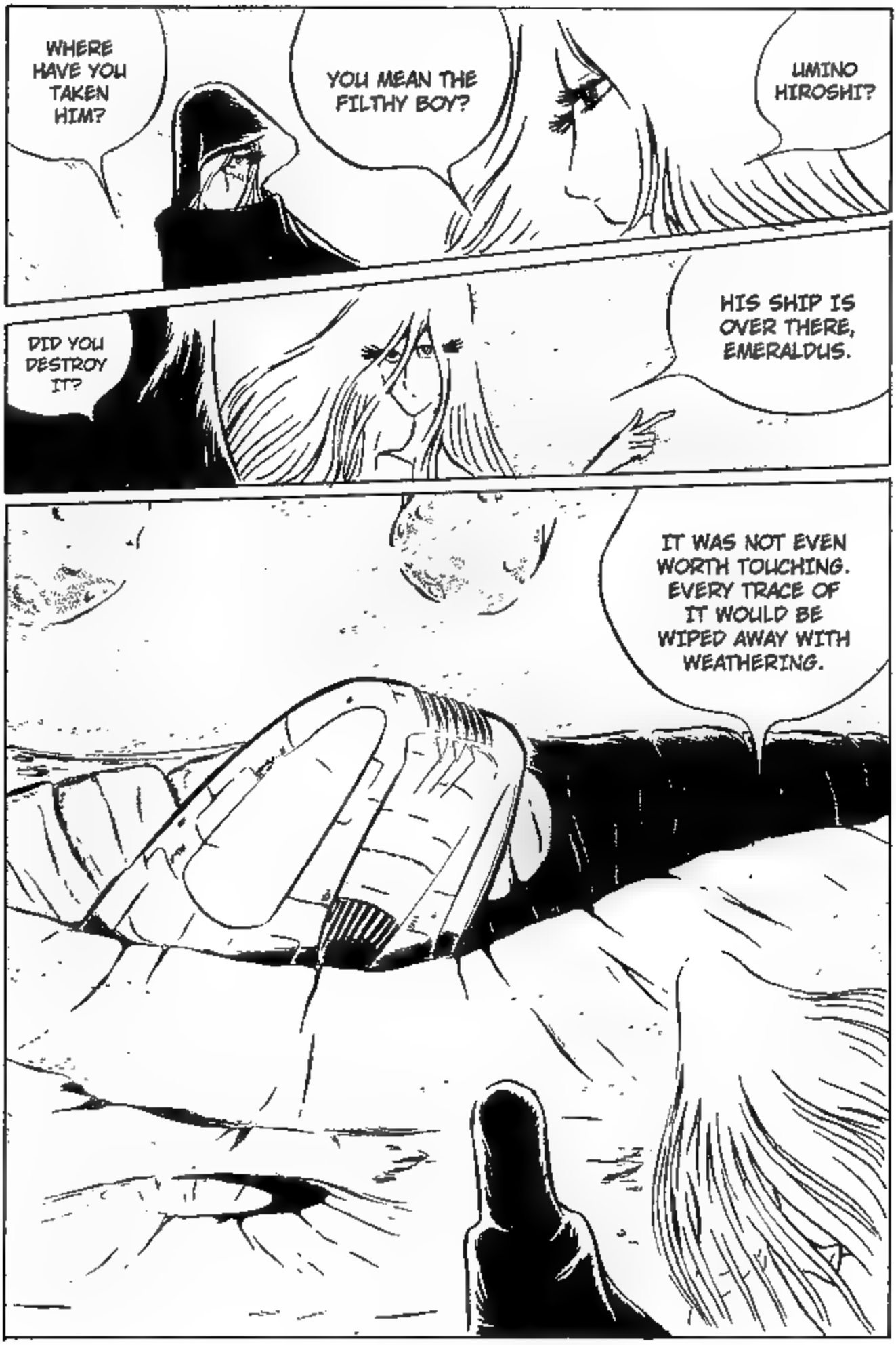
I AM EMERALDUS, AND I MAY BE THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS MET THE SIRENS, AND COME BACK ALIVE...

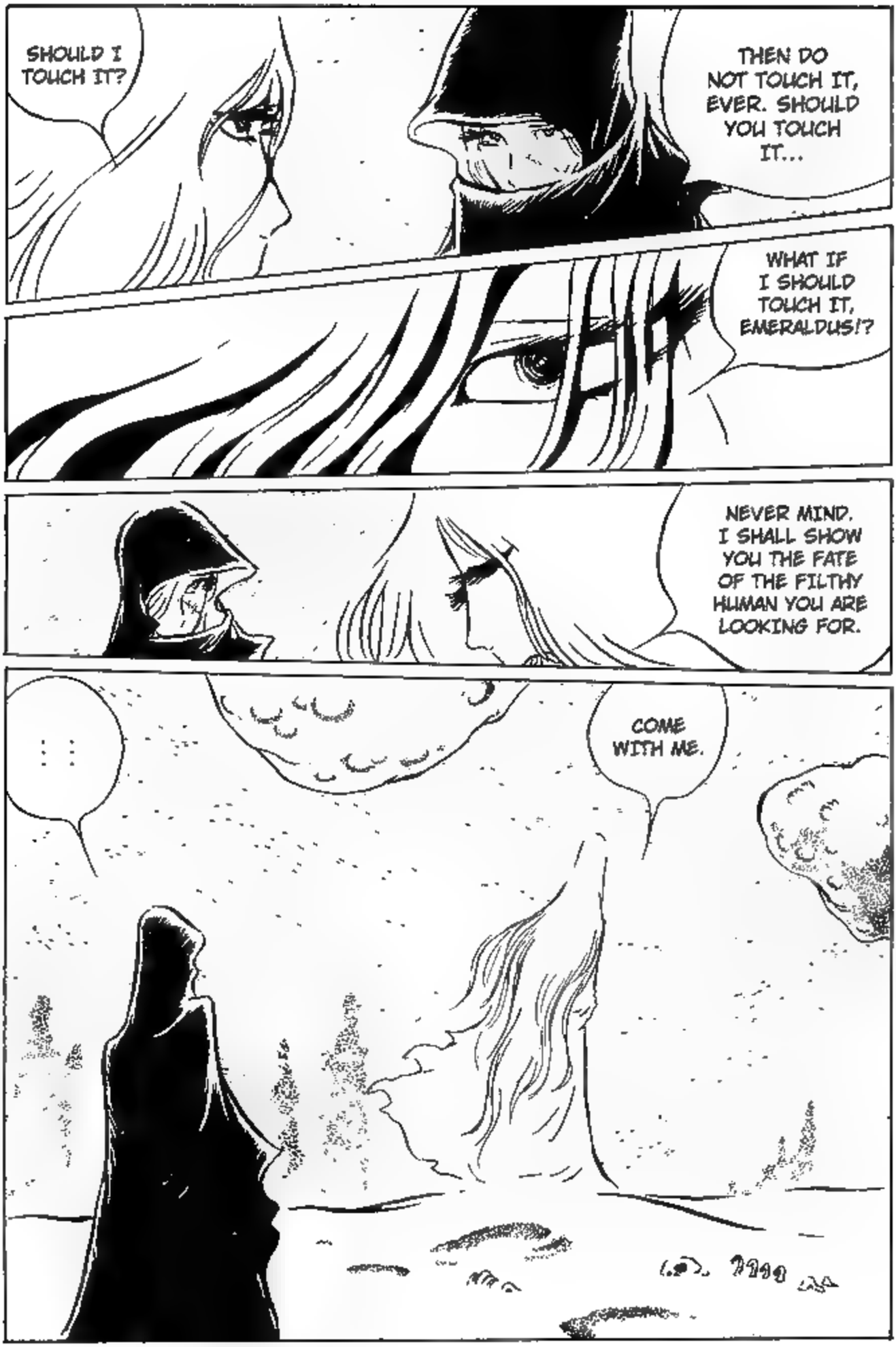

I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD ENCOUNTER THE SIRENS AGAIN...
I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD GO TO THE SARGASSO ASTEROID FIELD, WHERE THE SIRENS NEST. .
THE WAY OF THE QUEEN EMERALDUS SEEMED SLOWER THAN EVER.
THE SARGASSO ASTEROID FIELD... IT IS THE GRAVEYARD OF SPACE, WITH A CIRCUMFERENCE OF 2,000 SPACE KILOMETERS...

SFX: WHOOOOOOSH!
IT IS A WORLD FILLED WITH THE VOICE OF THE SIRENS, SOMETIMES WEEPING, SOMETIMES SNEERING...

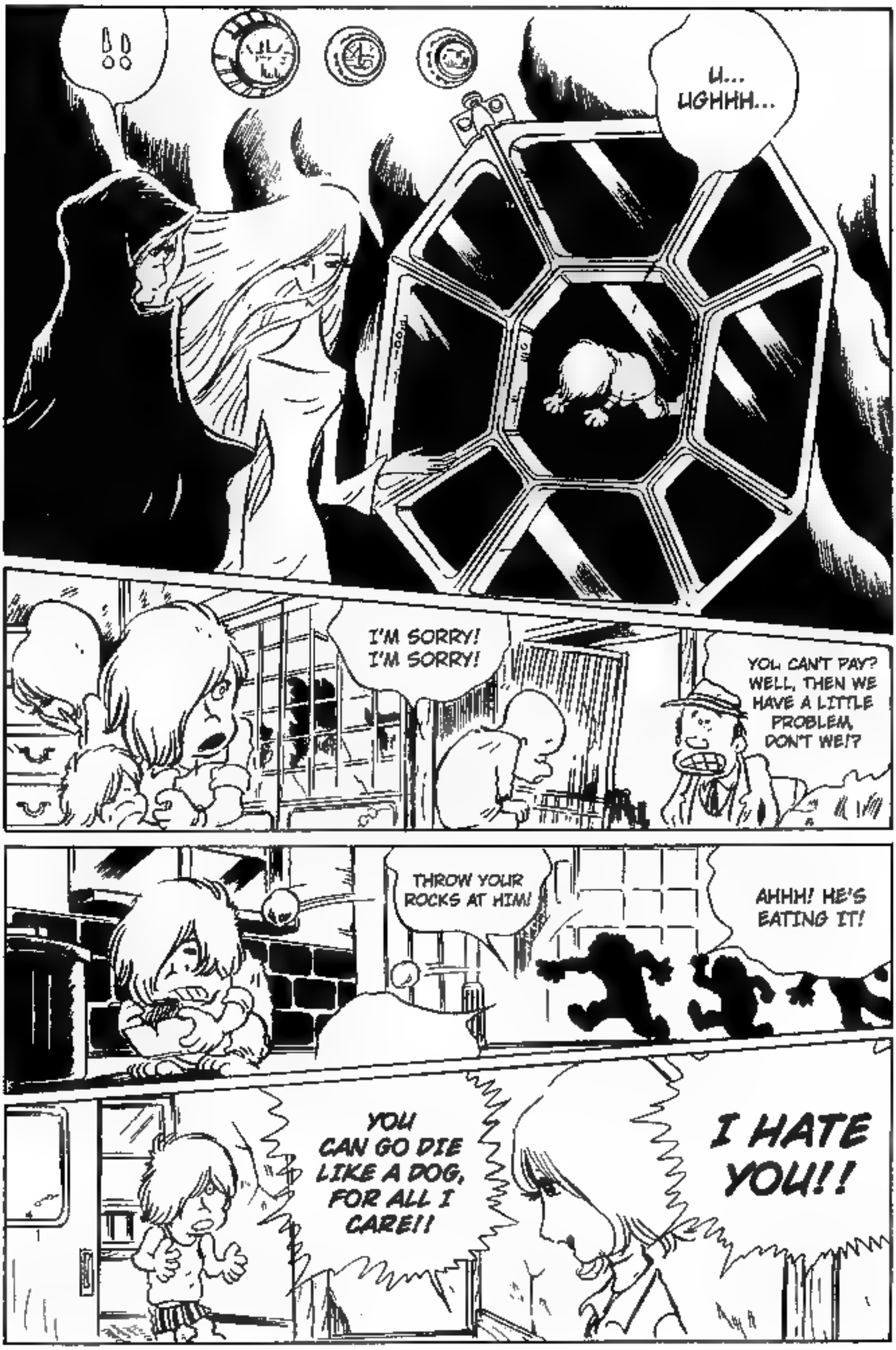
EMERALDUS IS COMING!
EMERALDUS IS COMING!
EMERALDUS IS COMING!
EMERALDUS?
SFX: WHOOOOOOOSH!


EMERALDUS!!
IT'S BEEN QUITE A WHILE.
SO... YOU CAME HERE BY ROWBOAT ...
THE QUEEN EMERALDUS DIDN'T WANT TO COME HERE.
I SEE... WHAT DO YOU NEED?
GIVE BACK UMINO HIROSHI.

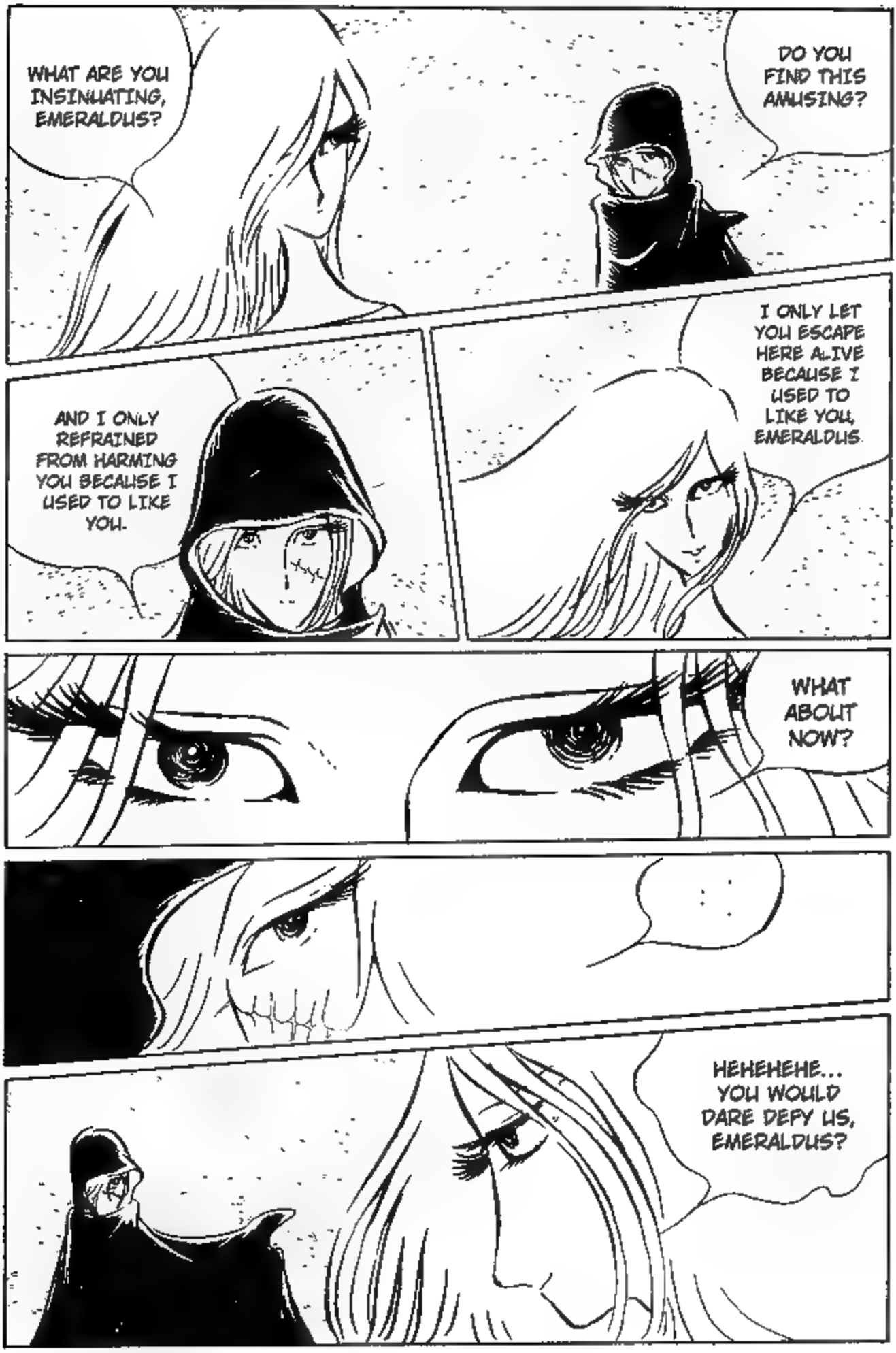

WHERE HAVE YOU TAKEN HIM?
YOU MEAN THE FILTHY BOY?
UMINO HIROSHI?
HIS SHIP IS OVER THERE, EMERALDUS.
DID YOU DESTROY IT?
IT WAS NOT EVEN WORTH TOUCHING. EVERY TRACE OF IT WOULD BE WIPED AWAY WITH WEATHERING.

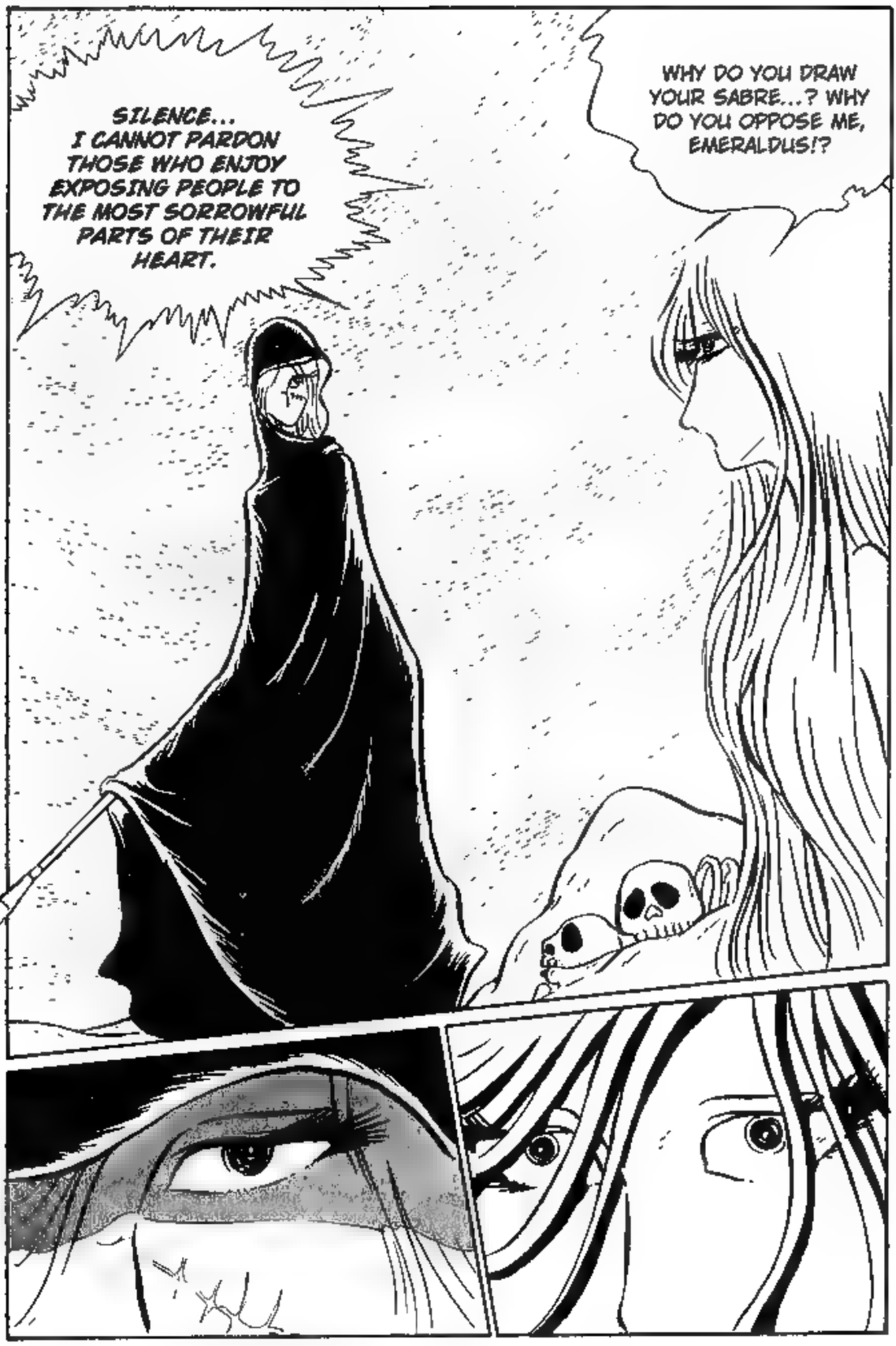

SHOULD I TOUCH IT?
THEN DO NOT TOUCH IT, EVER. SHOULD YOU TOUCH IT...
WHAT IF I SHOULD TOUCH IT, EMERALDUS!?
NEVER MIND. I SHALL SHOW YOU THE FATE OF THE FILTHY HUMAN YOU ARE LOOKING FOR.
...
COME WITH ME.

CONFINED BY A STONE DOOR?
THAT MAN IS STRUGGLING, CONFINED BY A STONE DOOR. HE IS STRUGGLING AND STRUGGLING, AND CRYING ALL THE WHILE.

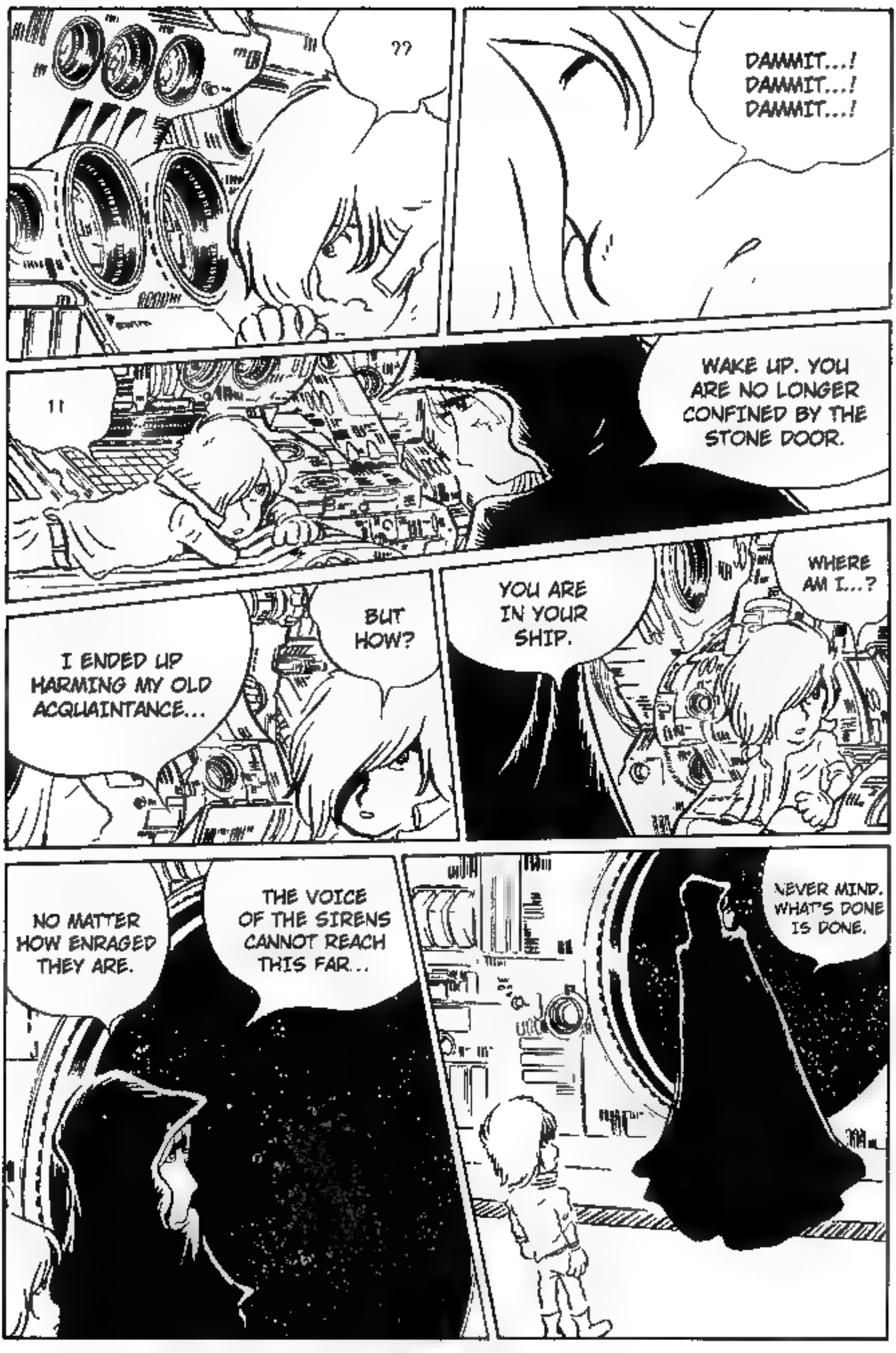

!!
U...
UGHHH...
I'M SORRY!
I'M SORRY!
YOU CAN'T PAY? WELL, THEN WE HAVE A LITTLE PROBLEM, DON'T WE!?
THROW YOUR ROCKS AT HIM!
AHHH! HE'S EATING IT!
YOU CAN GO DIE LIKE A DOG, FOR ALL I CARE!!
I HATE YOU!!

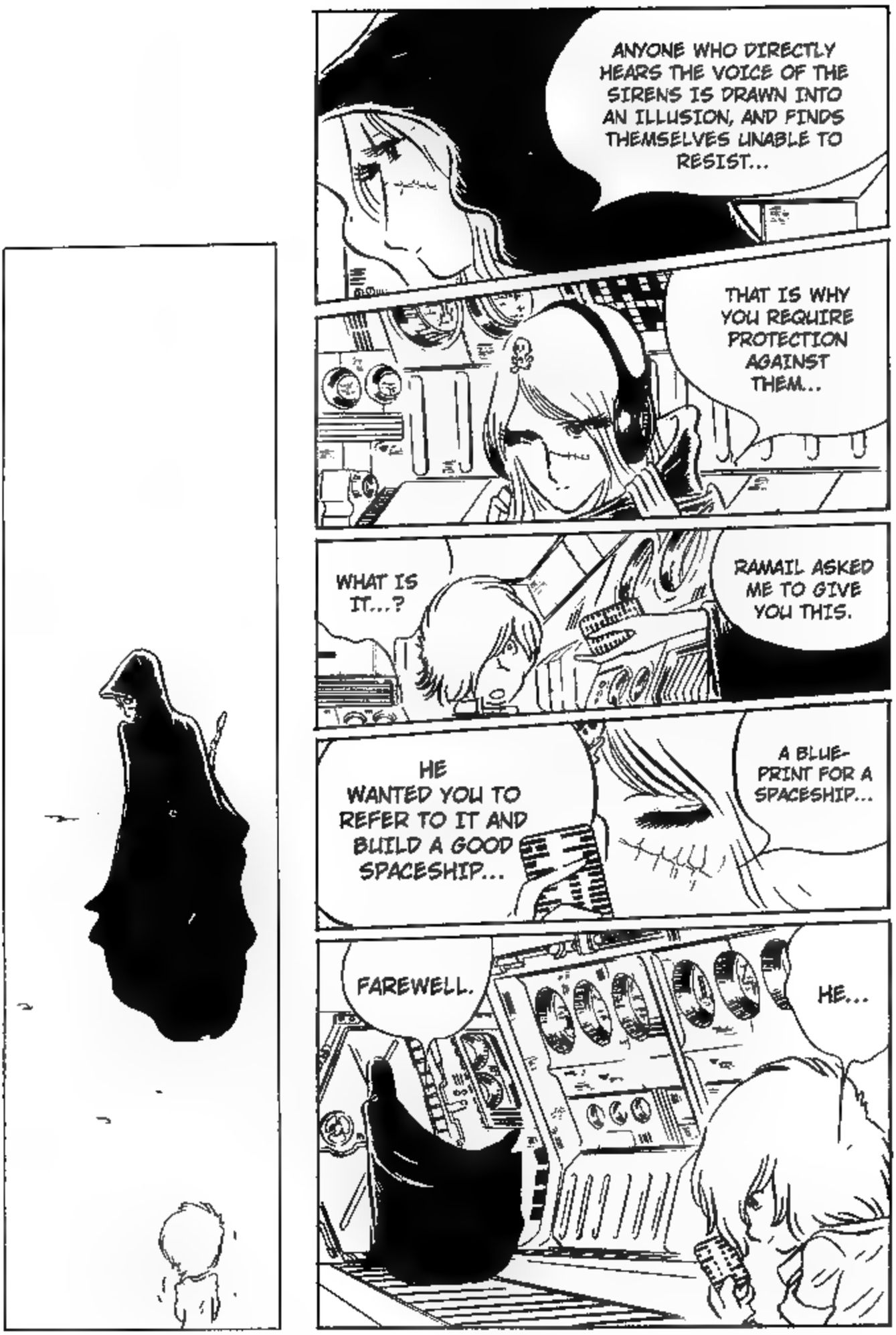
ALL THOSE CONFINED BY THIS STONE DOOR WILL BE FORCED TO RELIVE THE MOST PAINFUL PARTS OF THEIR LIVES. THEY WILL GRIEVE, THEY WILL CRY, THEY WILL WRITHE IN AGONY ..
I'LL... I'LL...
JUST YOU WAIT... I'LL SHOW YOU...
THEY WILL BE REDUCED TO THEIR SKELETONS...
AND AS THEY WRITHE AND WRITHE...
AND THAT SKELETON WILL BECOME PART OF OUR GARDEN OF THE SARGASSO ASTEROID FIELD...
SFX: WHOOOOOOOSH!

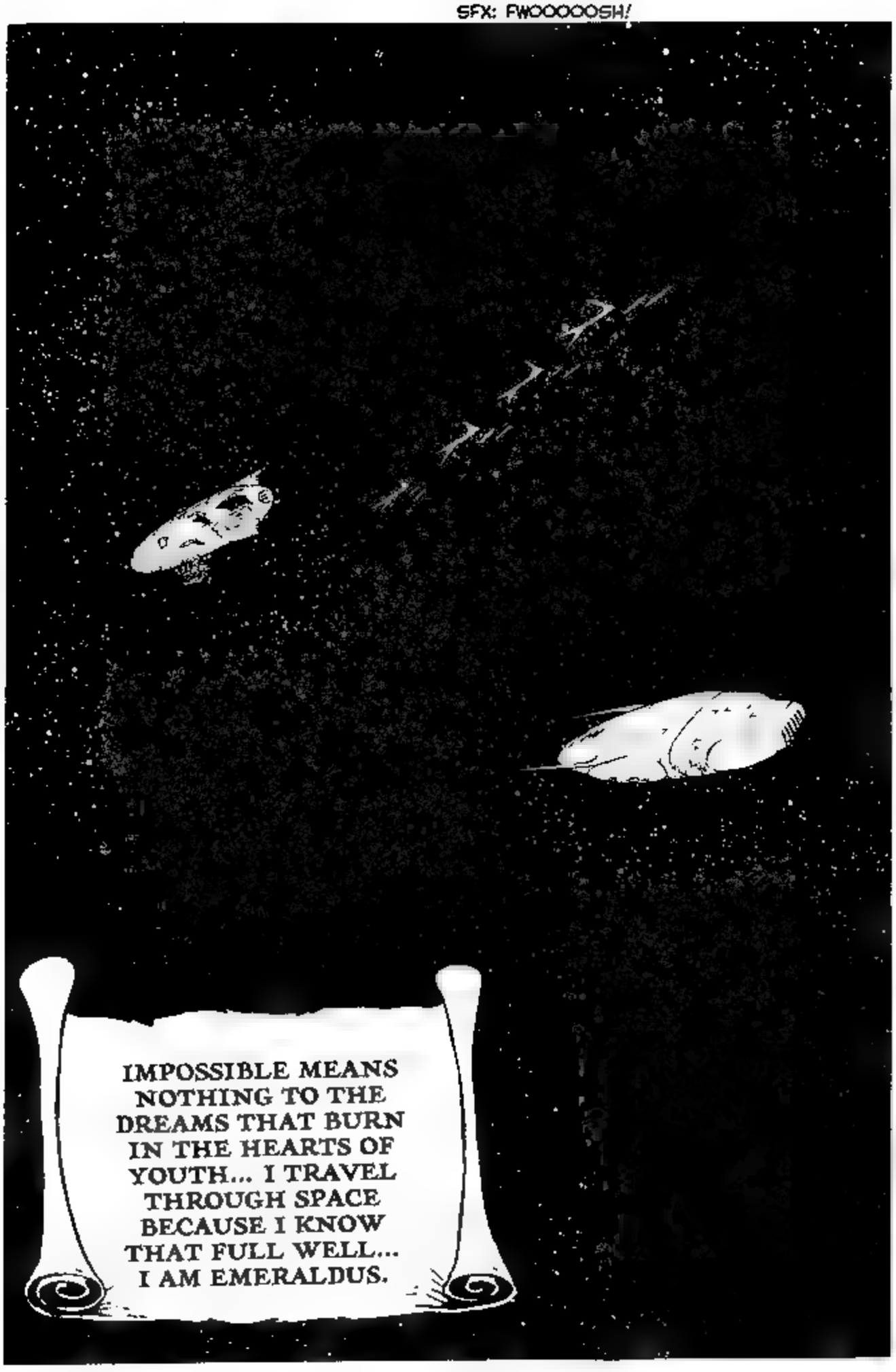

WHAT ARE YOU INSINUATING, EMERALDUS?
DO YOU FIND THIS AMUSING?
I ONLY LET YOU ESCAPE HERE ALIVE BECAUSE I USED TO LIKE YOU, EMERALDUS.
AND I ONLY REFRAINED FROM HARMING YOU BECAUSE I USED TO LIKE YOU.
WHAT ABOUT NOW?
HEHEHEHE... YOU WOULD DARE DEFY US, EMERALDUS?

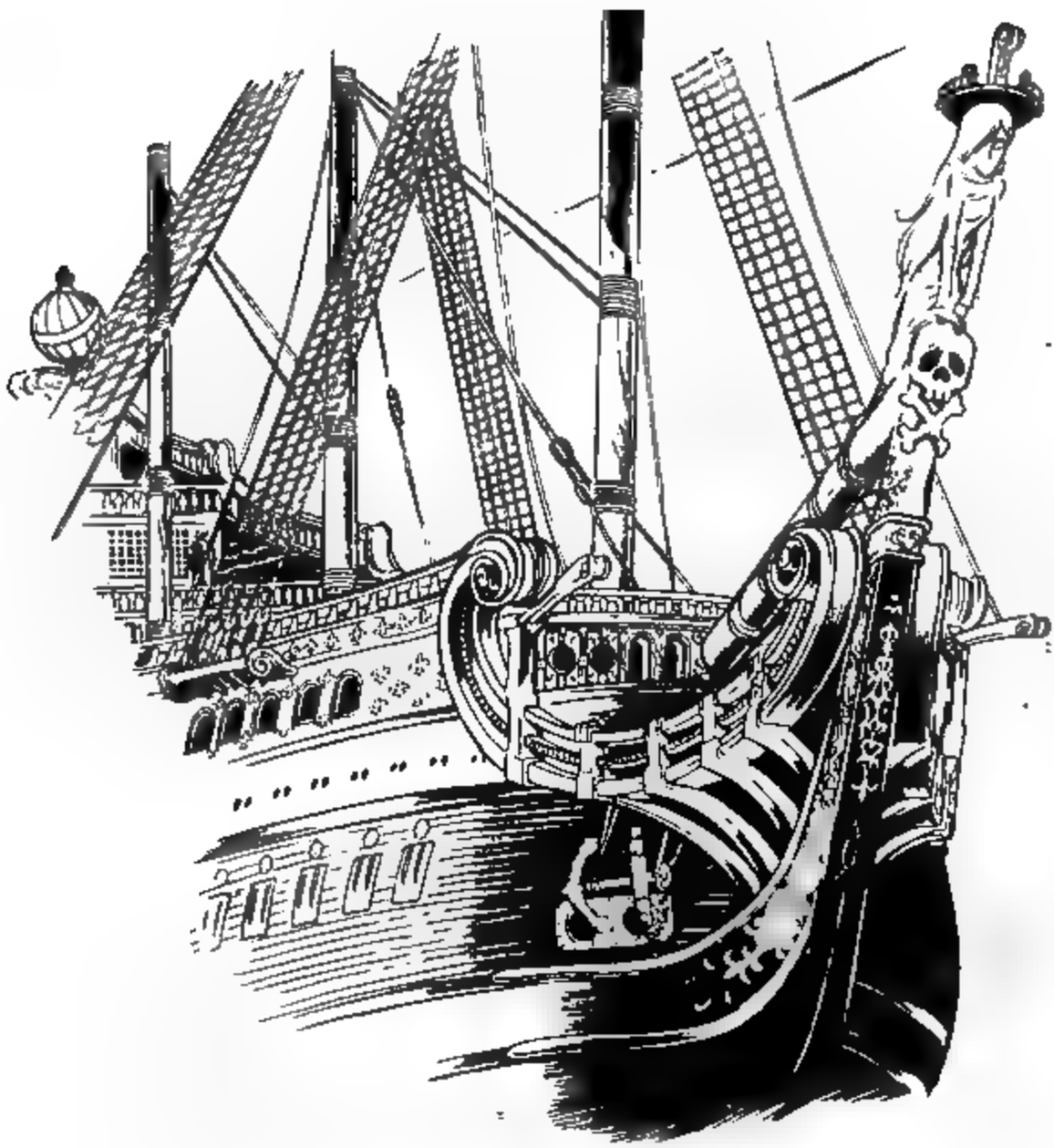

SILENCE...
I CANNOT PARDON THOSE WHO ENJOY EXPOSING PEOPLE TO THE MOST SORROWFUL PARTS OF THEIR HEART.
WHY DO YOU DRAW YOUR SABRE...? WHY DO YOU OPPOSE ME, EMERALDUS!?

SFX: SLAAAAASH!


??
DAMMIT...!
DAMMIT...!
DAMMIT...!
!!
WAKE UP. YOU ARE NO LONGER CONFINED BY THE STONE DOOR.
I ENDED UP HARMING MY OLD ACQUAINTANCE...
BUT HOW?
YOU ARE IN YOUR SHIP.
WHERE AM I...?
NO MATTER HOW ENRAGED THEY ARE.
THE VOICE OF THE SIRENS CANNOT REACH THIS FAR...
NEVER MIND. WHAT'S DONE IS DONE.


ANYONE WHO DIRECTLY HEARS THE VOICE OF THE SIRENS IS DRAWN INTO AN ILLUSION, AND FINDS THEMSELVES UNABLE TO RESIST...
THAT IS WHY YOU REQUIRE PROTECTION AGAINST THEM...
WHAT IS IT...?
RAMAIL ASKED ME TO GIVE YOU THIS.
HE WANTED YOU TO REFER TO IT AND BUILD A GOOD SPACESHIP...
A BLUE-PRINT FOR A SPACESHIP...
FAREWELL.
HE...

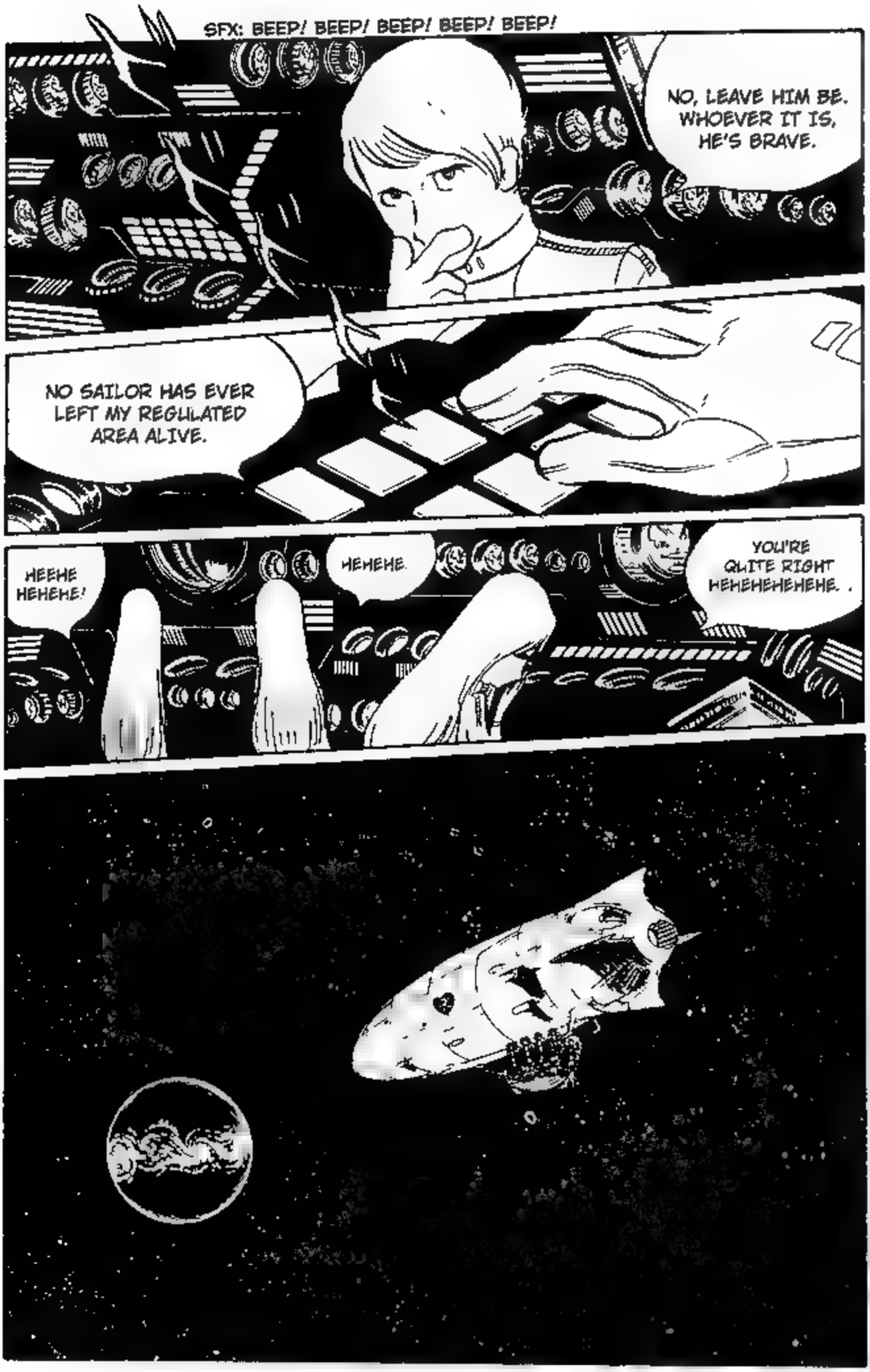

SFX: FWOOOOOSH!
IMPOSSIBLE MEANS NOTHING TO THE DREAMS THAT BURN IN THE HEARTS OF YOUTH... I TRAVEL THROUGH SPACE BECAUSE I KNOW THAT FULL WELL... I AM EMERALDUS.

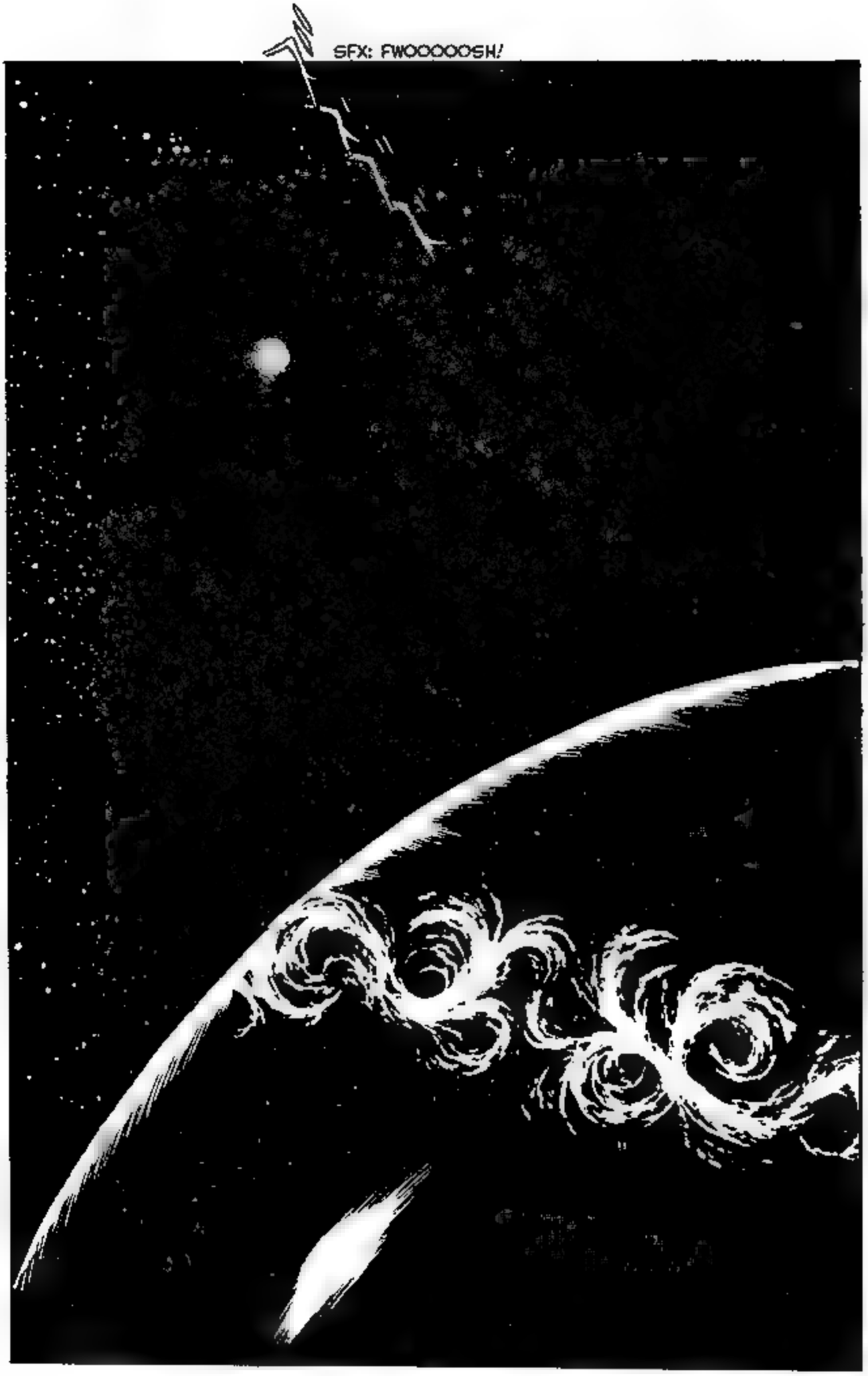


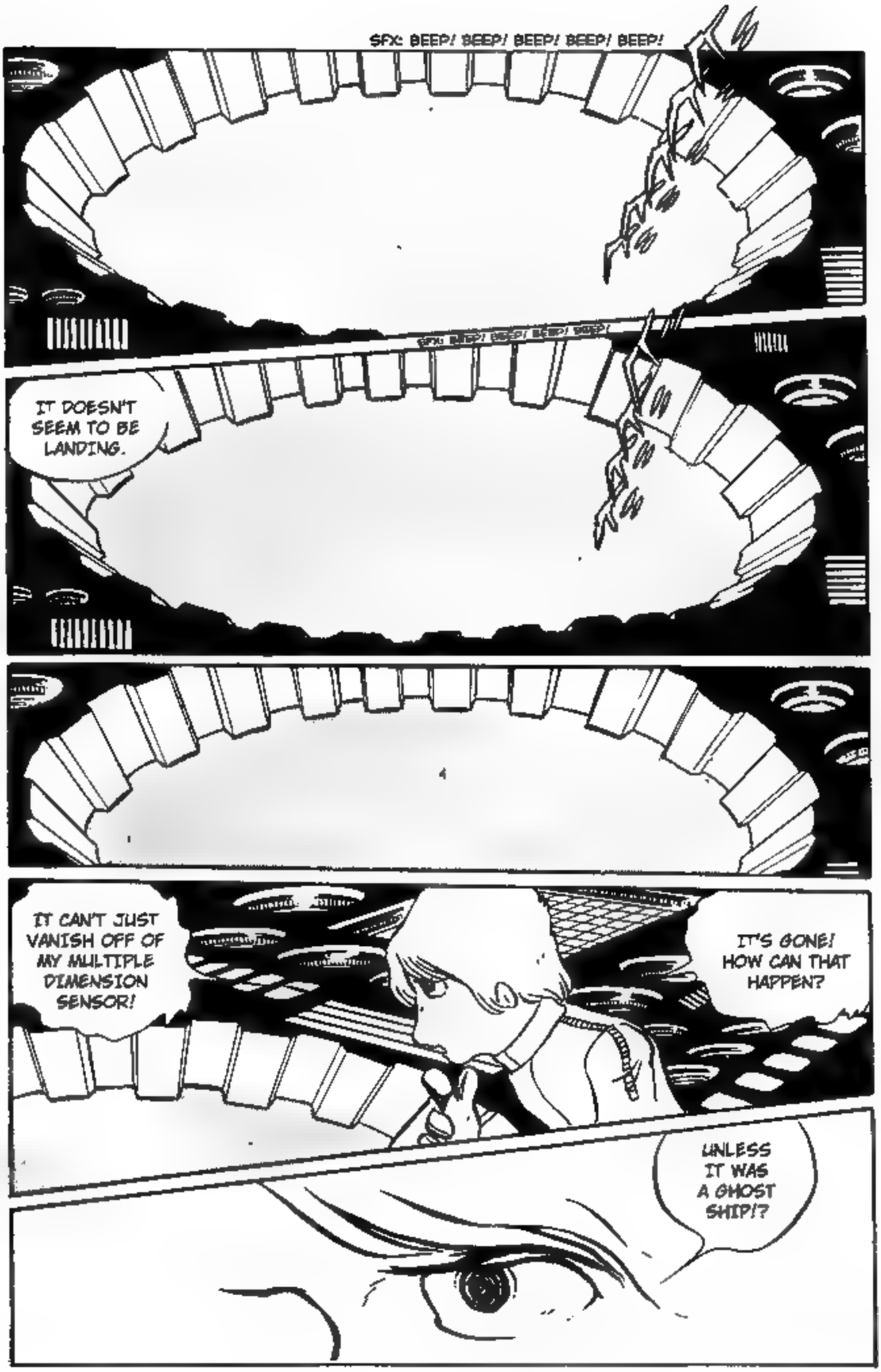
SFX: BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! BEEP!
SOMETIMES, SPACE HAS INVISIBLE WALLS. YOU MUST NOT SCORN THE NATURAL BARRIERS. BUT THE TREACHEROUS AND DETESTABLE WALLS ARE THE ONES MADE BY HUMANS... AND I HAVE COLLIDED WITH THESE ARTIFICIAL WALLS TIME AND TIMF AGAIN..

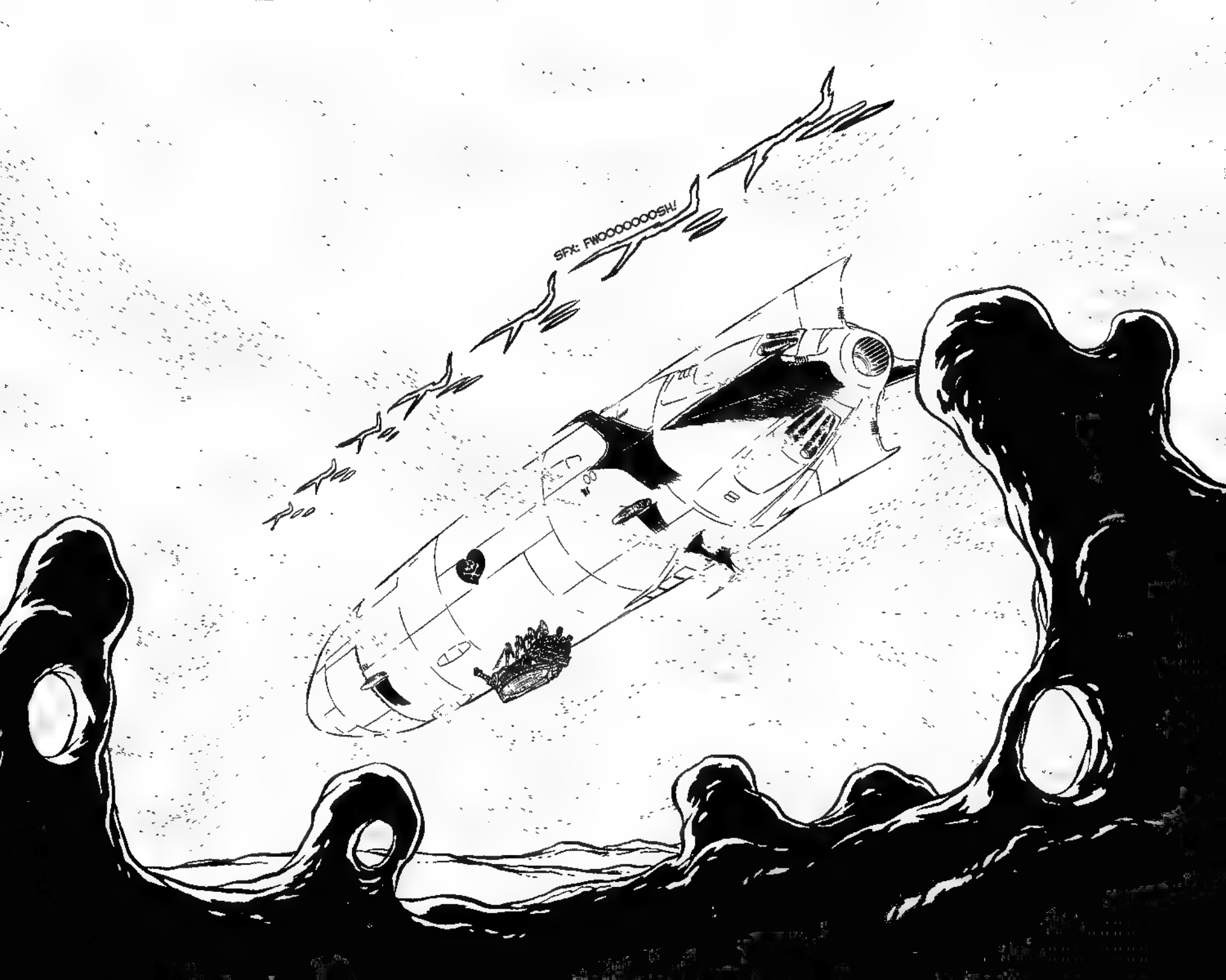
I AM EMERALDUS. NO ONE KNOWS WHAT I AM SEARCHING FOR AS I TRAVEL THROUGH SPACE. I VISIT INHABITED PLANETS IN SEARCH OF IT...

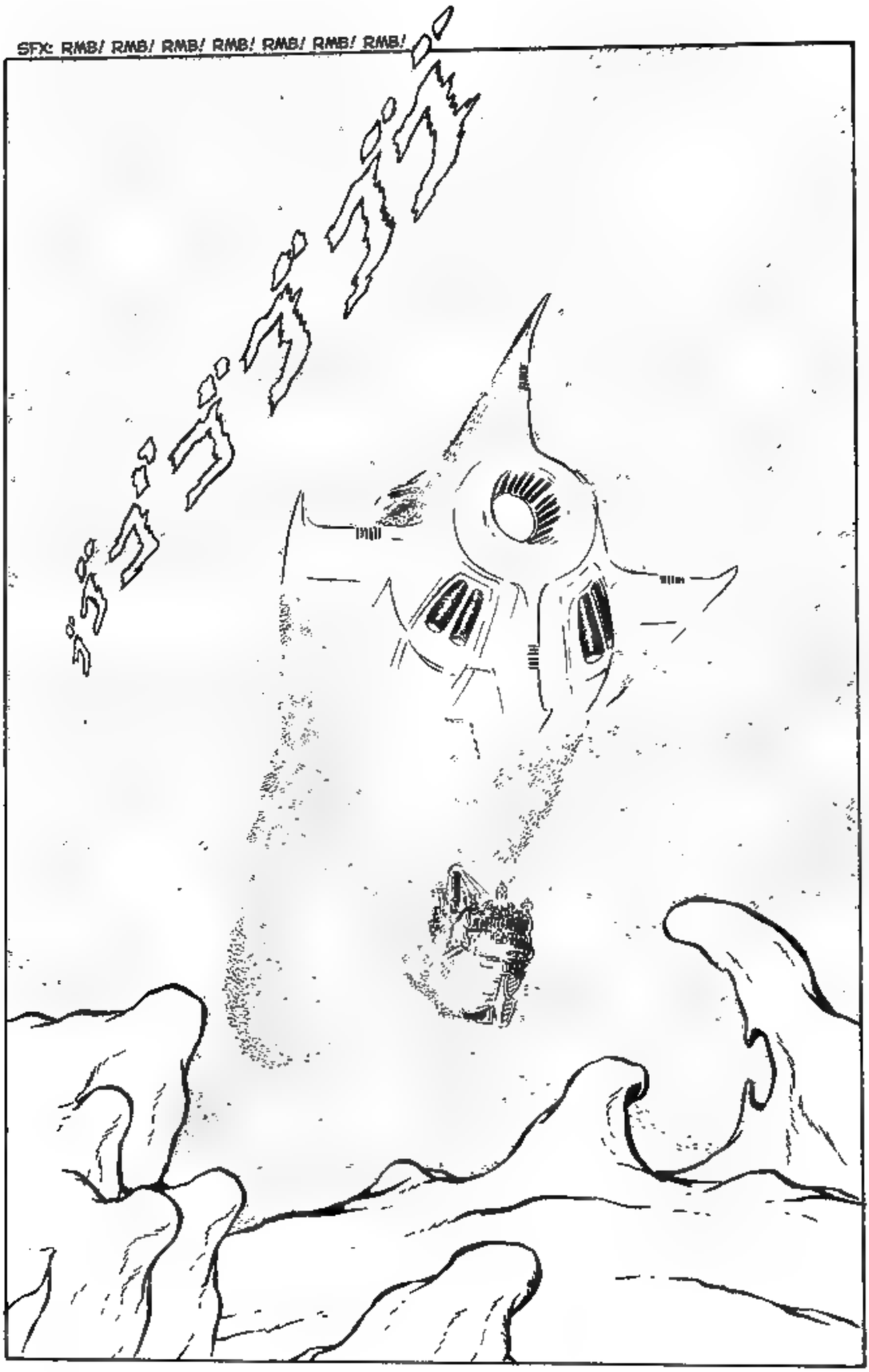
THERE'S A STRANGE SHIP THAT JUST ENTERED THE REGULATED AREA. IT'S APPROACHING ON A STABILIZED COURSE
SHOULD WE ELIMINATE IT? IT'LL BE WITHIN RANGE OF THE SHOCK BATTERY SOON.

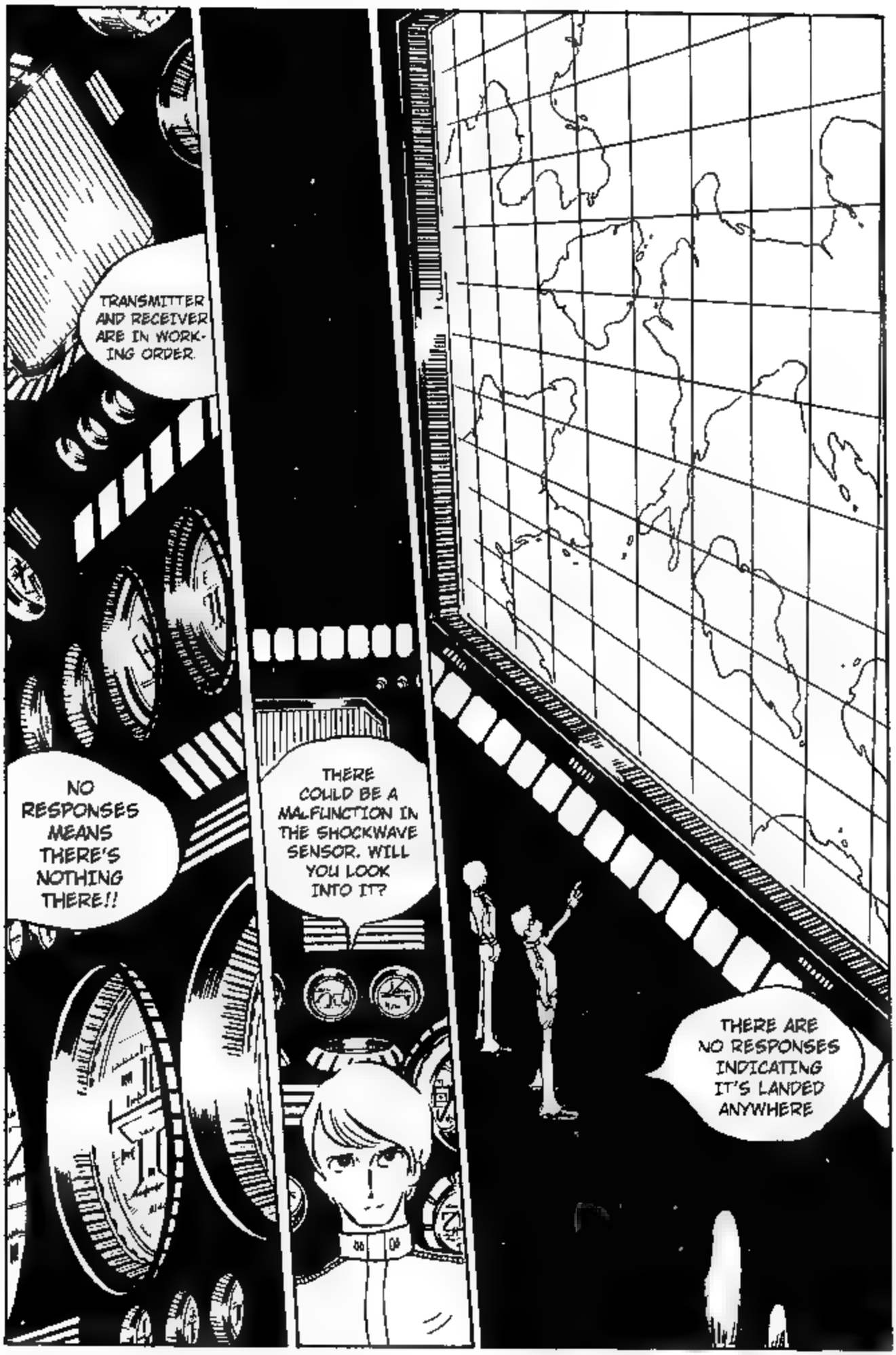

SFX: BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! BEEP!
NO, LEAVE HIM BE. WHOEVER IT IS, HE'S BRAVE.
NO SAILOR HAS EVER LEFT MY REGULATED AREA ALIVE.
HEEHE HEHEHE!
HEHEHE.
YOU'RE QUITE RIGHT HEHEHEHEHEHE. .

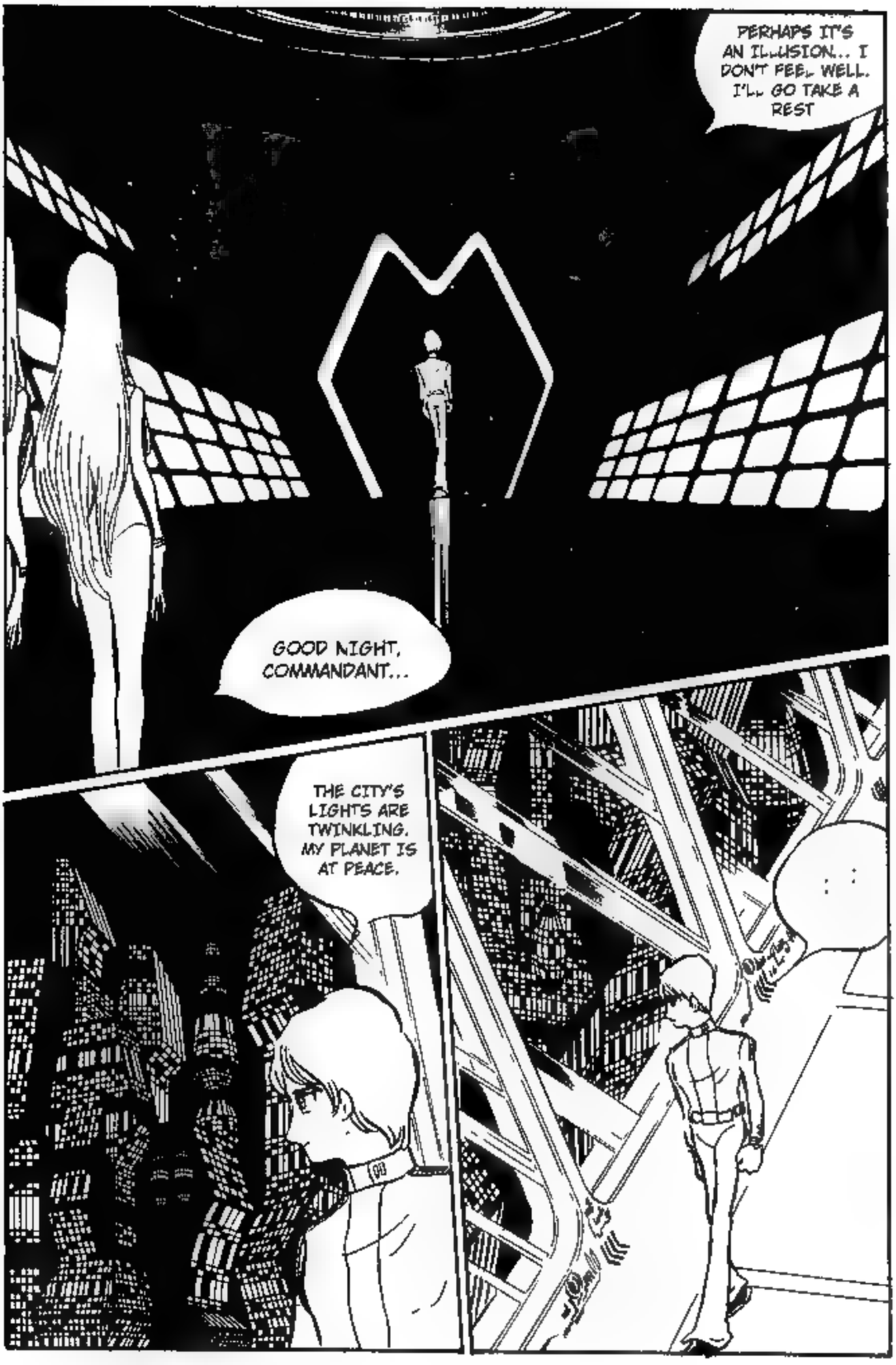

SFX: FWOOOOOSH!

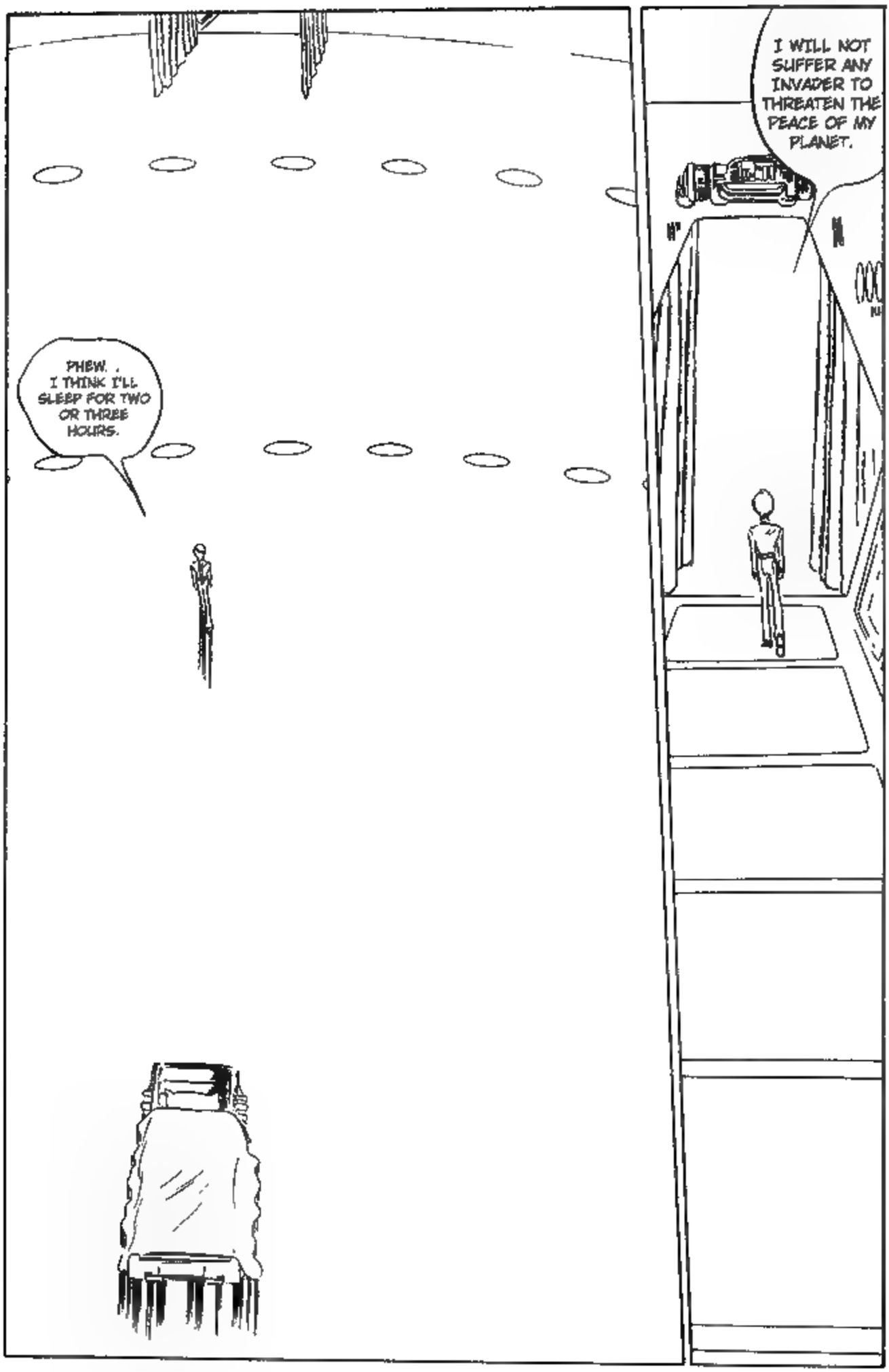

SFX: BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! BEEP!
IT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE LANDING.
IT CAN'T JUST VANISH OFF OF MY MULTIPLE DIMENSION SENSOR!
IT'S GONE! HOW CAN THAT HAPPEN?
UNLESS IT WAS A GHOST SHIP!?

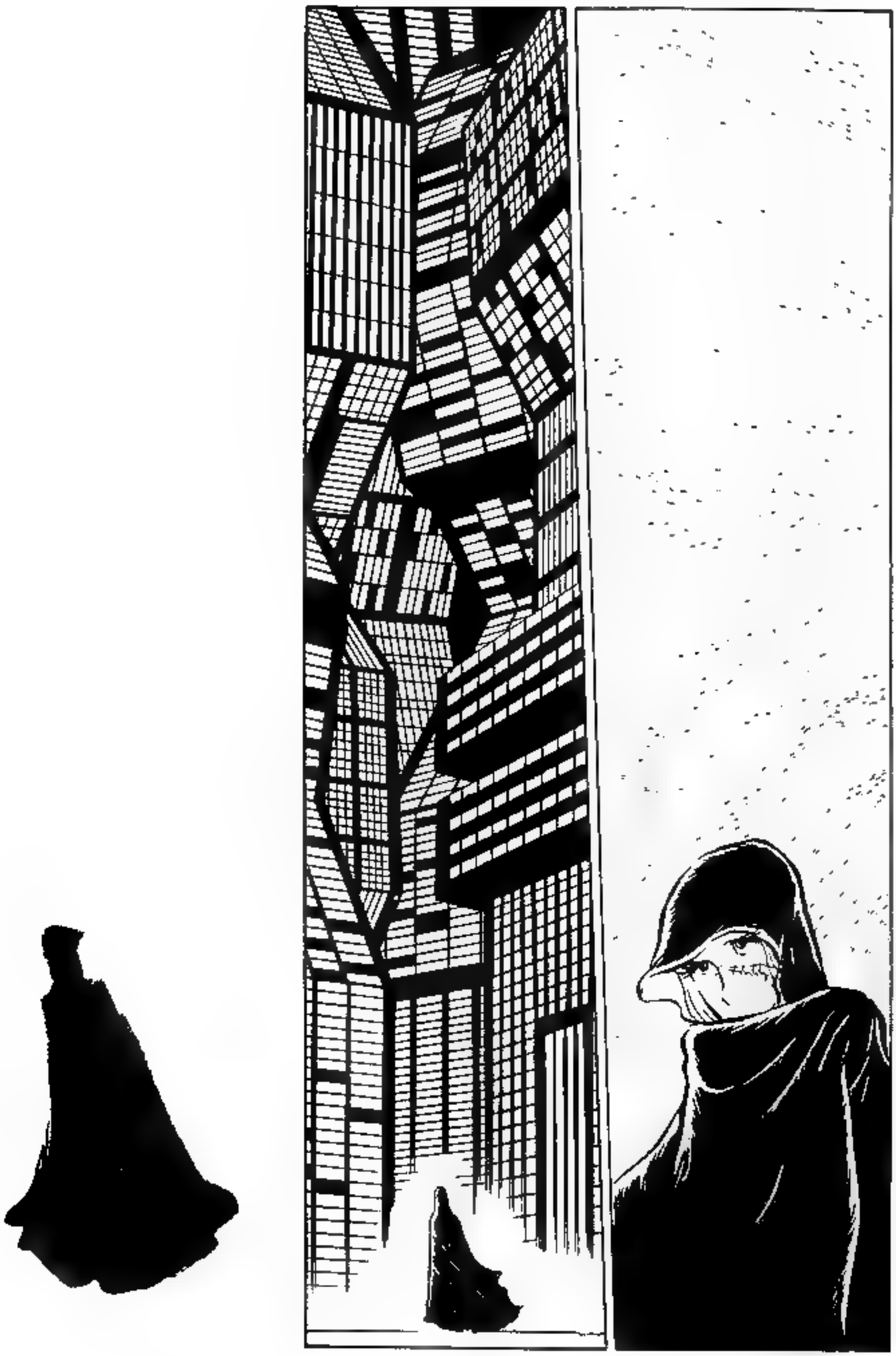

SFX: FWOOOOOOOSH!

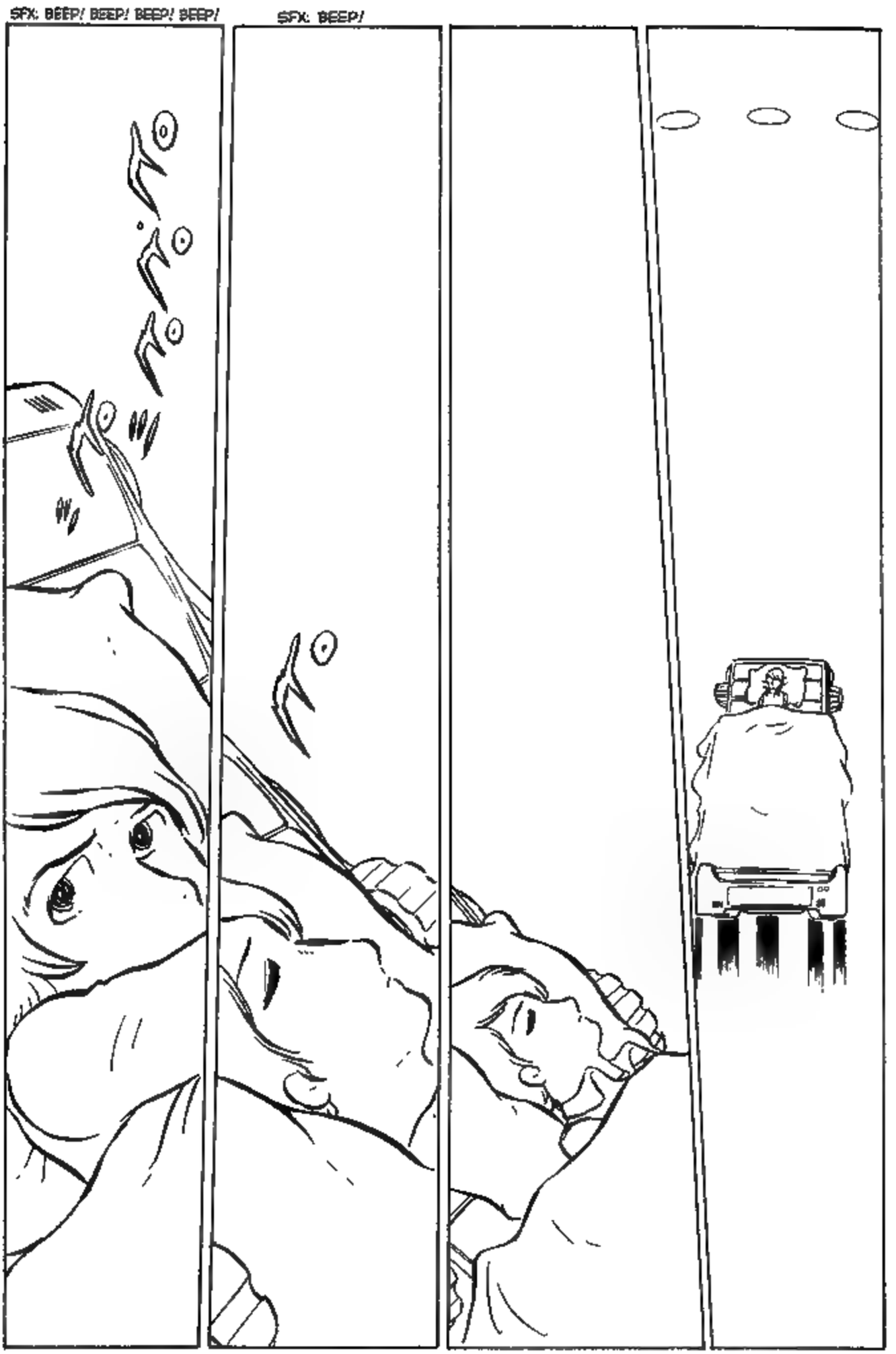

SFX: RMB! RMB! RMB! RMB! RMB! RMB! RMB!

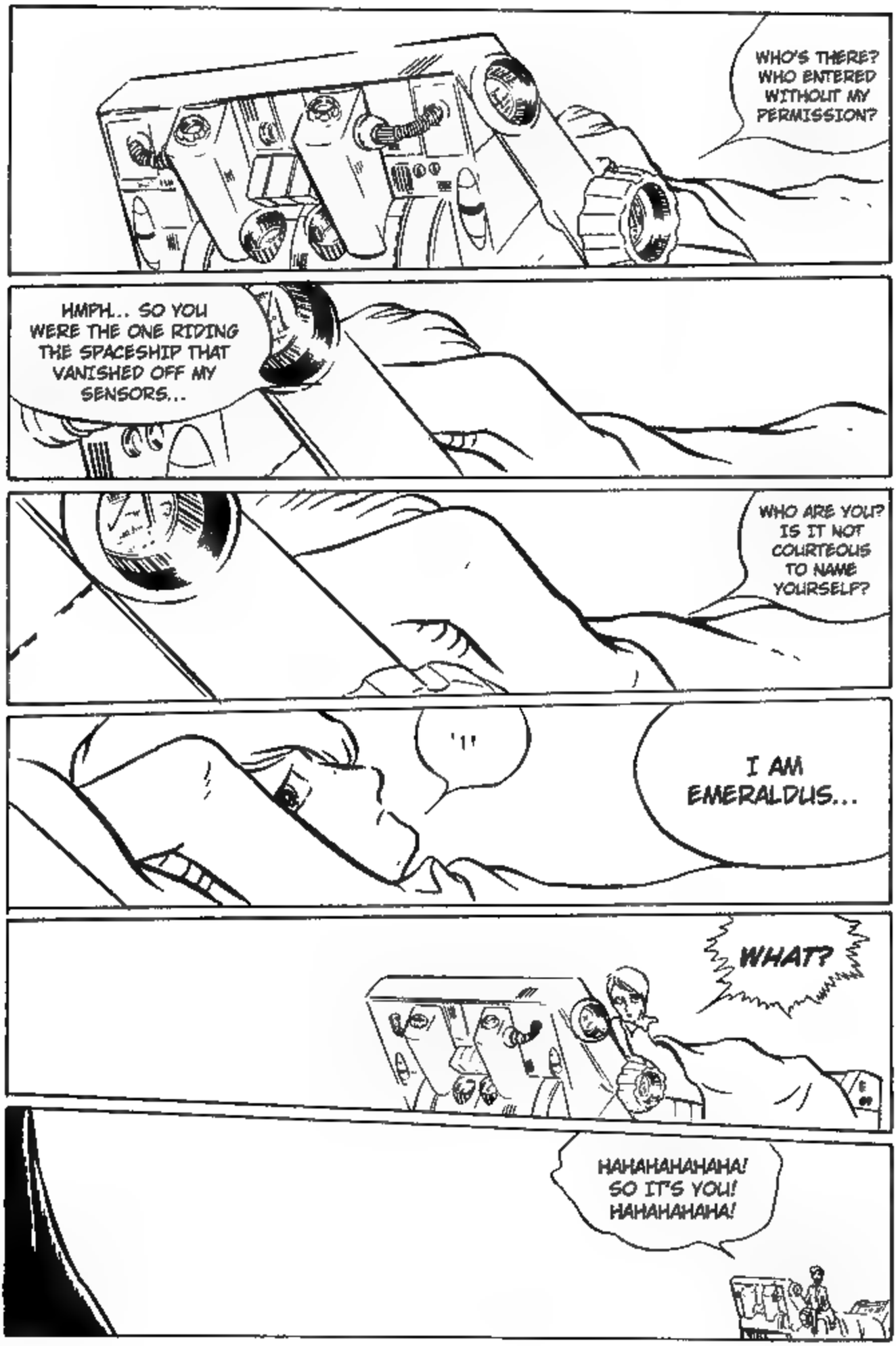

TRANSMITTER AND RECEIVER ARE IN WORKING ORDER.
NO RESPONSES MEANS THERE'S NOTHING THERE!!
THERE COULD BE A MALFUNCTION IN THE SHOCKWAVE SENSOR. WILL YOU LOOK INTO IT?
THERE ARE NO RESPONSES INDICATING IT'S LANDED ANYWHERE

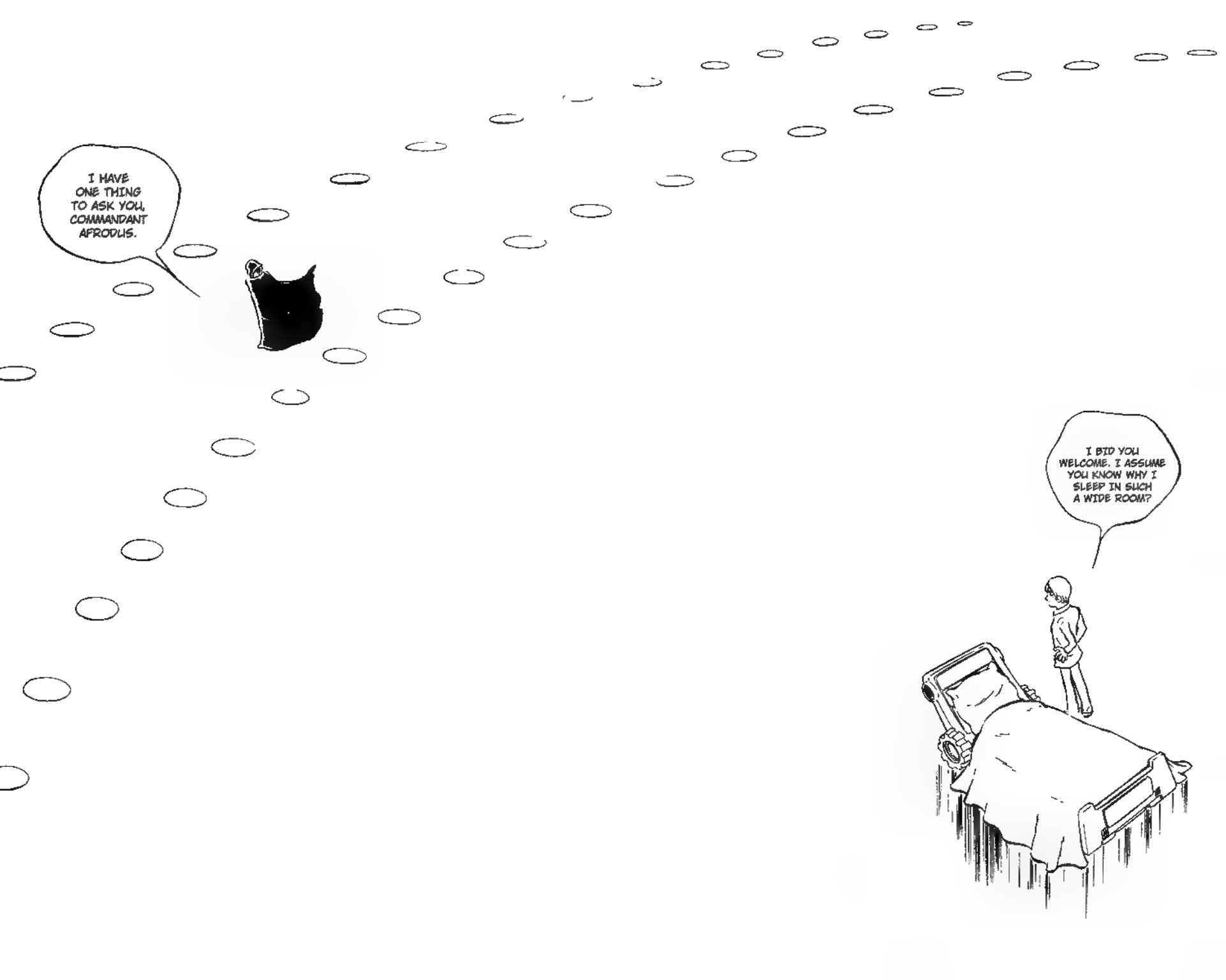

PERHAPS IT'S AN ILLUSION... I DON'T FEEL WELL. I'LL GO TAKE A REST
GOOD NIGHT, COMMANDANT...
THE CITY'S LIGHTS ARE TWINKLING. MY PLANET IS AT PEACE.


I WILL NOT SUFFER ANY INVADER TO THREATEN THE PEACE OF MY PLANET.
PHEW. . I THINK I'LL SLEEP FOR TWO OR THREE HOURS.

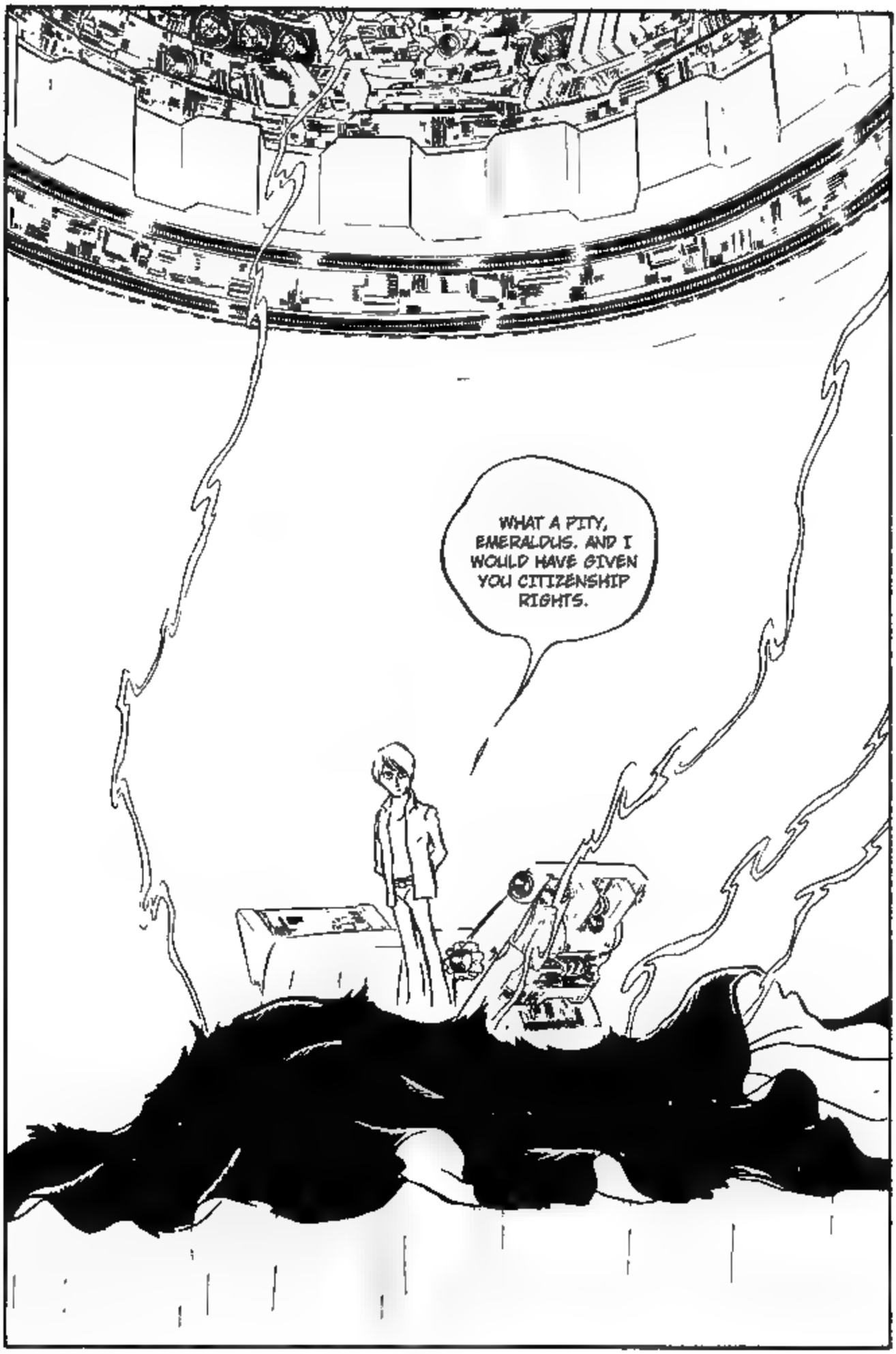


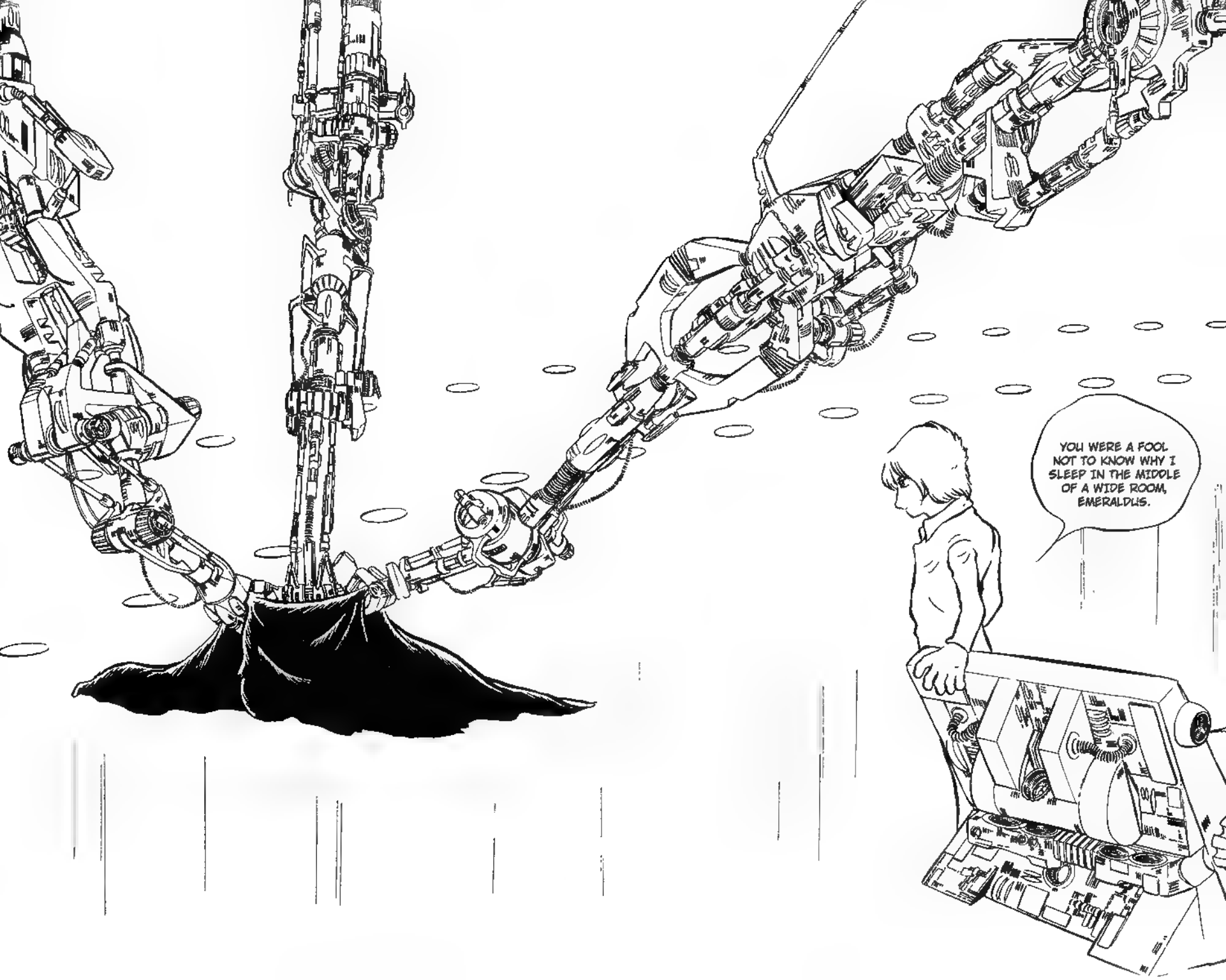

SFX: BEEP/ BEEP/ BEEP/ BEEP/
SFX: BEEP/

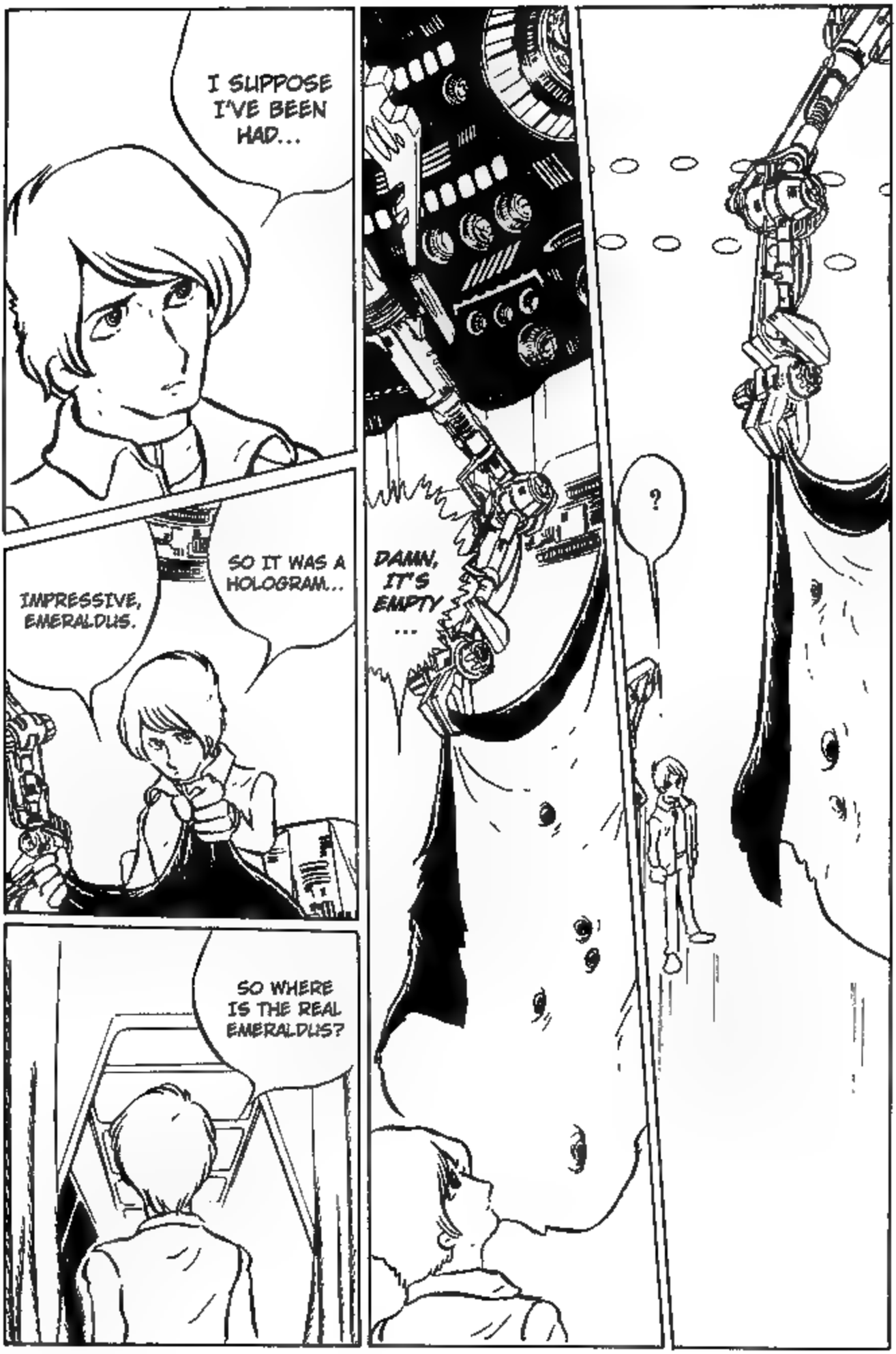

WHO'S THERE? WHO ENTERED WITHOUT MY PERMISSION?
HMPH... SO YOU WERE THE ONE RIDING THE SPACESHIP THAT VANISHED OFF MY SENSORS...
WHO ARE YOU? IS IT NOT COURTEOUS TO NAME YOURSELF?
"I"
I AM EMERALDUS...
WHAT?
HAHAHAHAHAHA! SO IT'S YOU! HAHAHAHAHA!

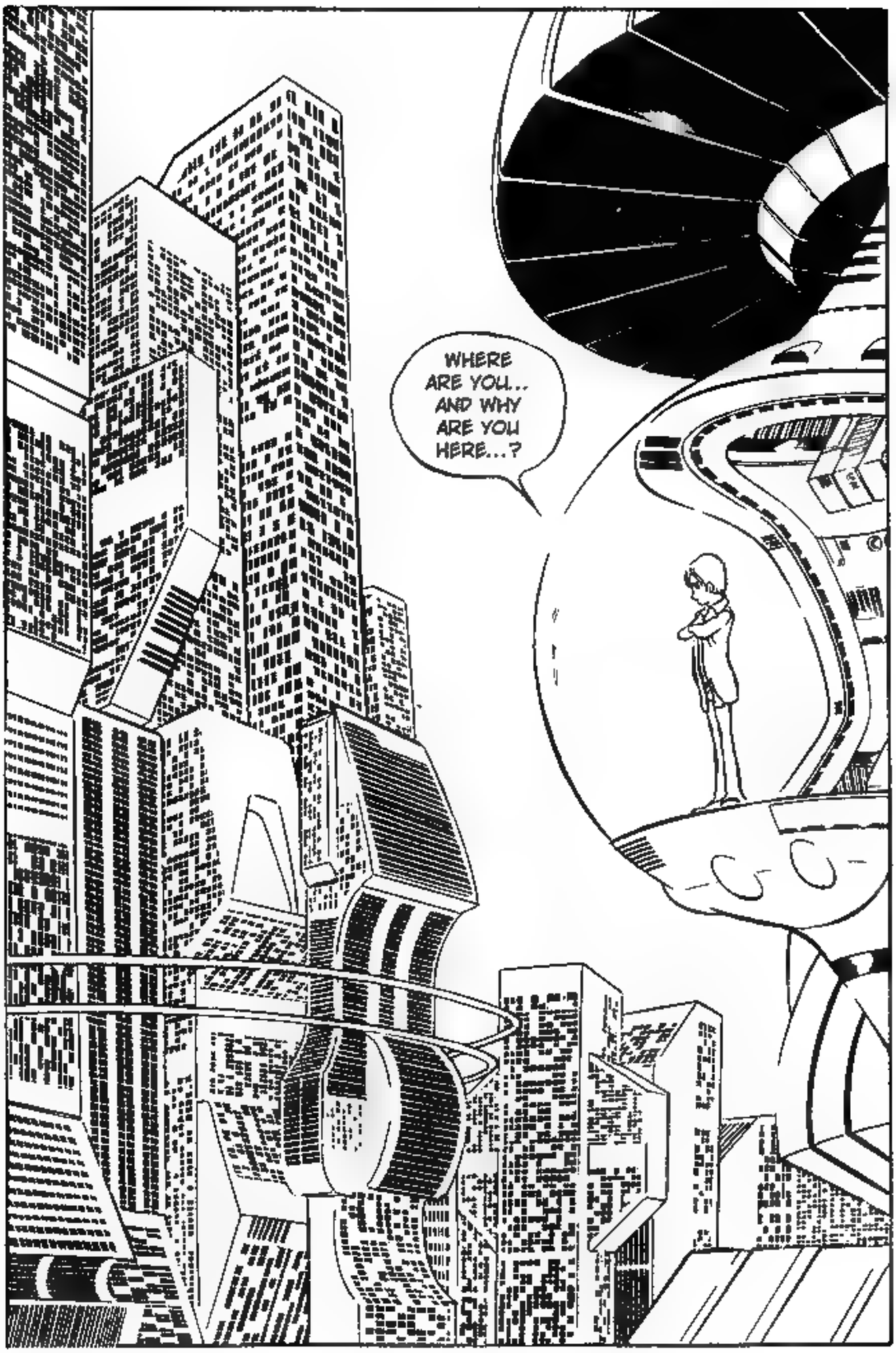

I HAVE ONE THING TO ASK YOU, COMMANDANT AFRODUS.
I BID YOU WELCOME. I ASSUME YOU KNOW WHY I SLEEP IN SUCH A WIDE ROOM?

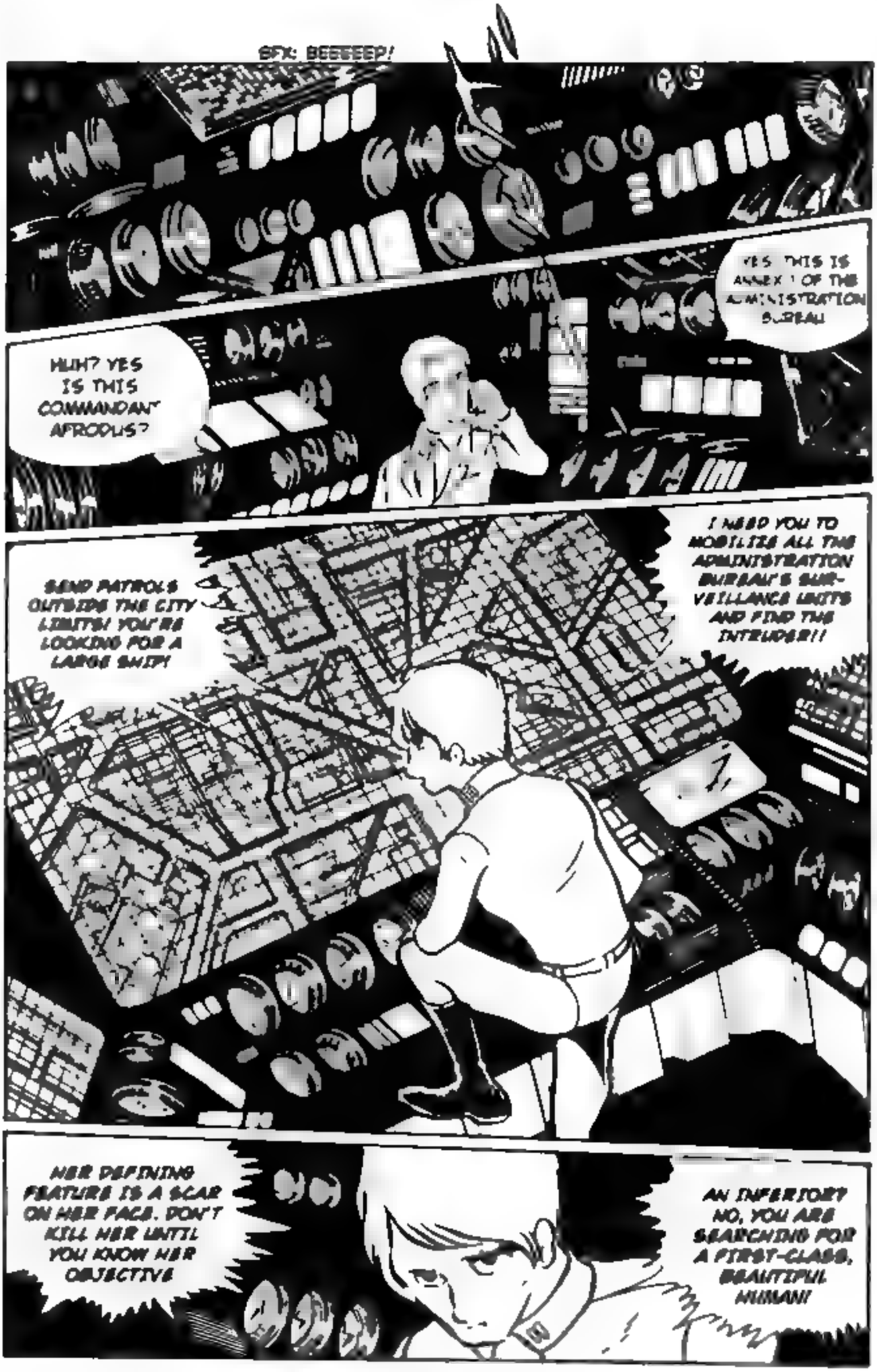
SFX: KER-CRACK/

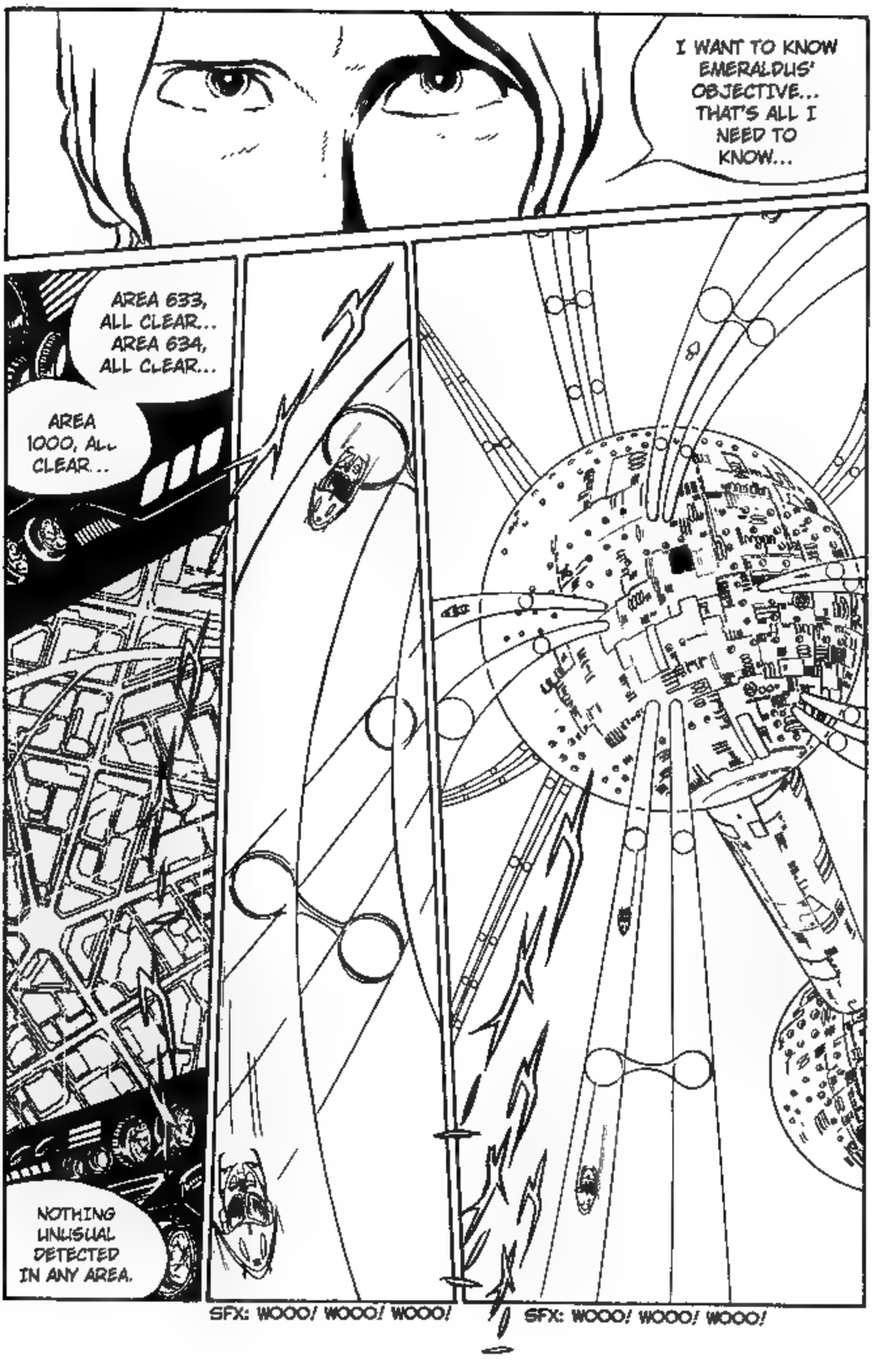

WHAT A PITY, EMERALDUS. AND I WOULD HAVE GIVEN YOU CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS.


YOU WERE A FOOL NOT TO KNOW WHY I SLEEP IN THE MIDDLE OF A WIDE ROOM, EMERALDUS.

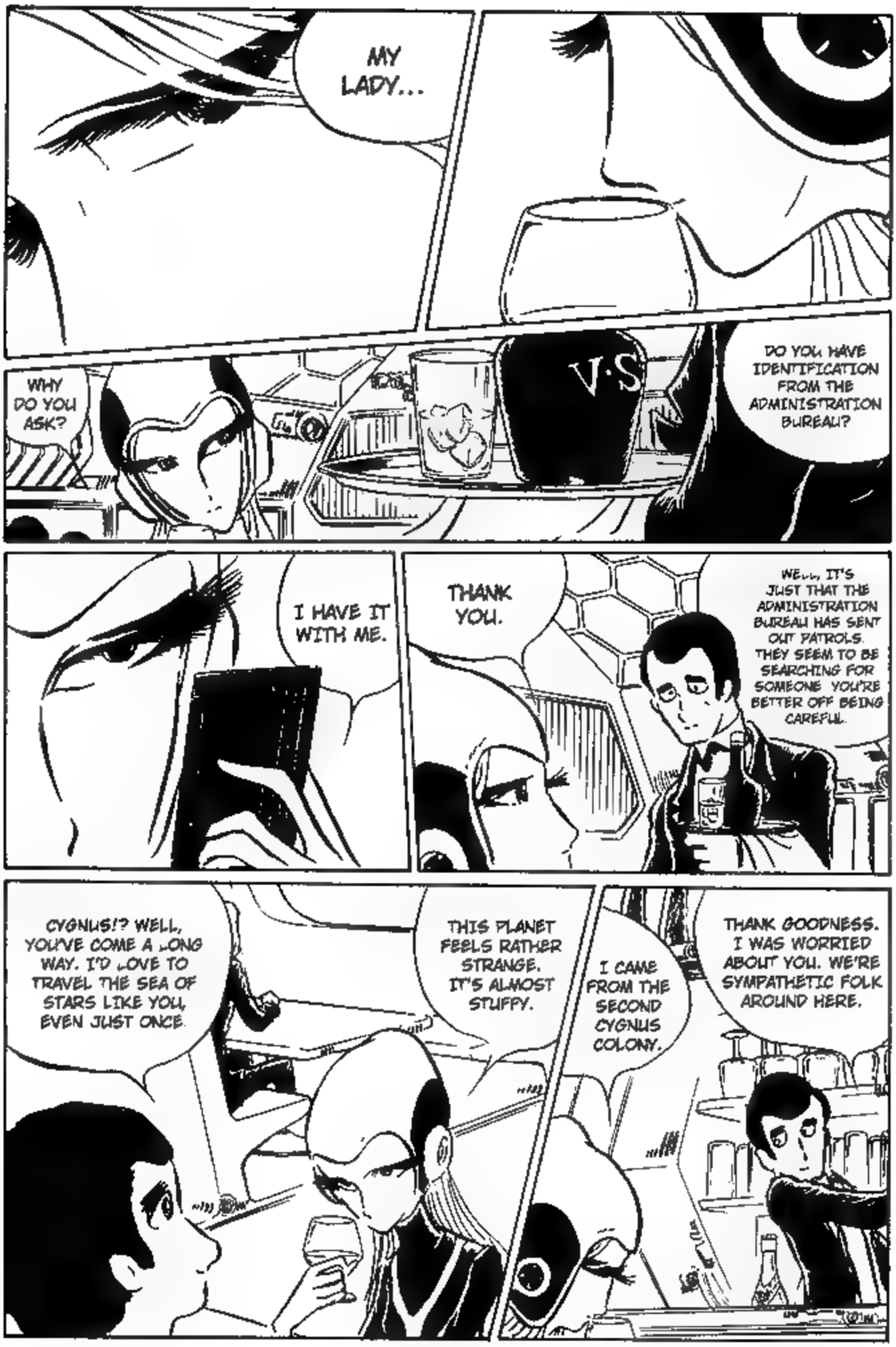

I SUPPOSE I'VE BEEN HAD...
SO IT WAS A HOLOGRAM...
IMPRESSIVE, EMERALDUS.
SO WHERE IS THE REAL EMERALDUS?
DAMN, IT'S EMPTY ...
?

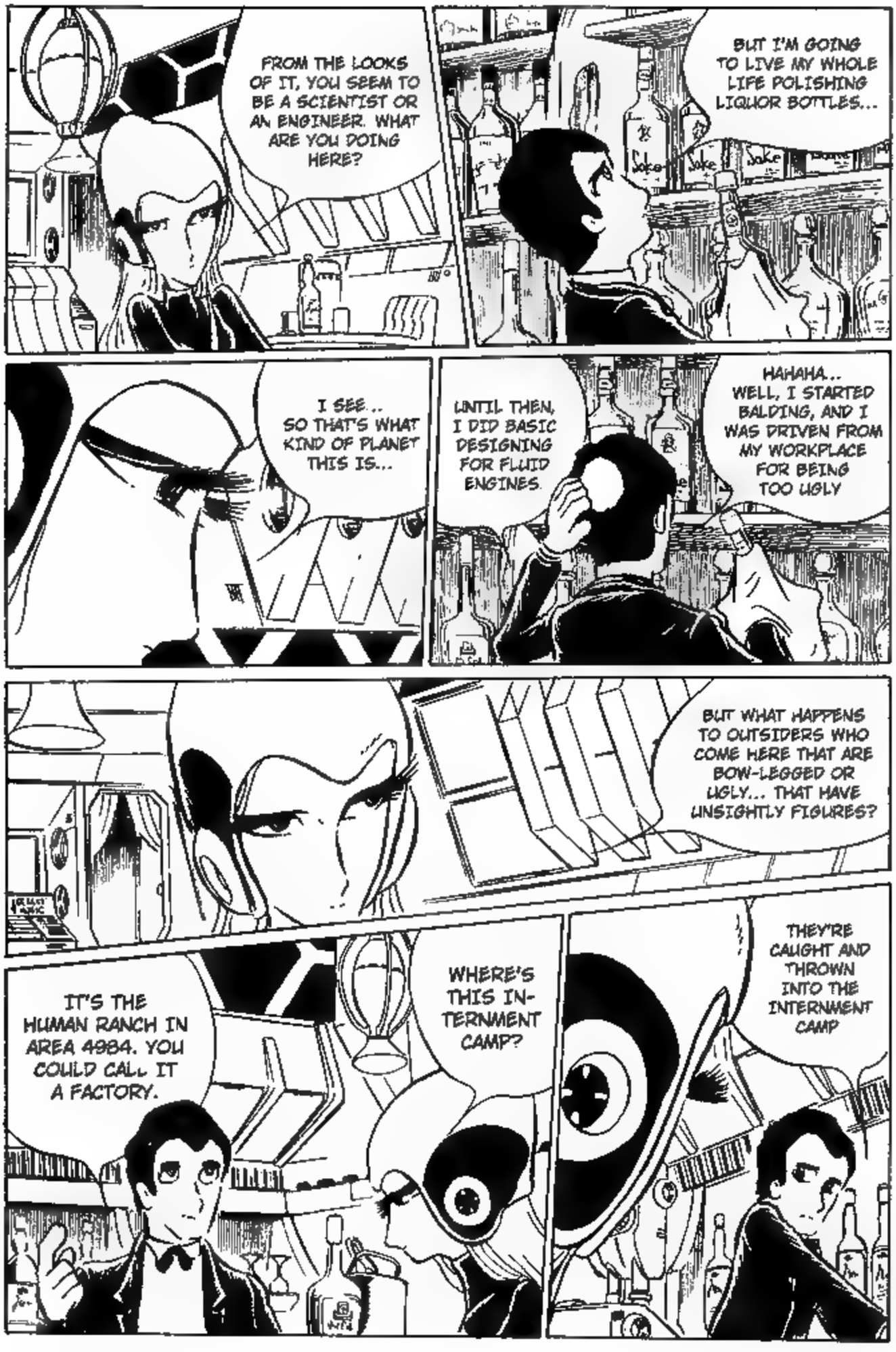

WHERE ARE YOU... AND WHY ARE YOU HERE...?

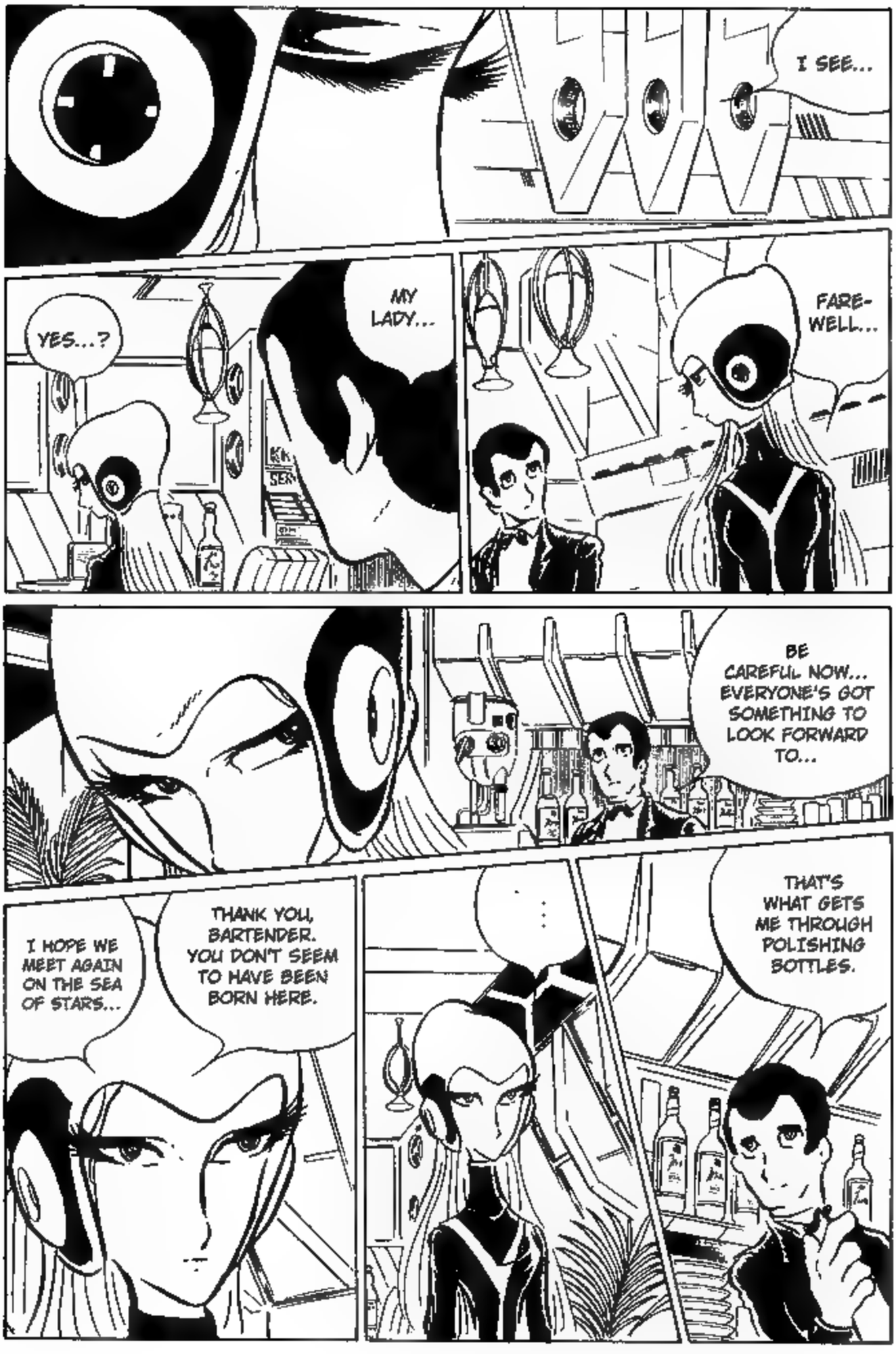

SFX: BEEEEEP!
YES, THIS IS ANNEX 1 OF THE ADMINISTRATION BUREAU
HUH? YES IS THIS COMMANDANT AFRODUS?
I NEED YOU TO MOBILIZE ALL THE ADMINISTRATION BUREAU'S SURVEILLANCE UNITS AND FIND THE INTRUDER!!
SEND PATROLS OUTSIDE THE CITY LIMITS! YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A LARGE SHIP!
AN INFERIOR? NO, YOU ARE SEARCHING FOR A FIRST-CLASS, BEAUTIFUL HUMAN!
HER DEFINING FEATURE IS A SCAR ON HER FACE. DON'T KILL HER UNTIL YOU KNOW HER OBJECTIVE

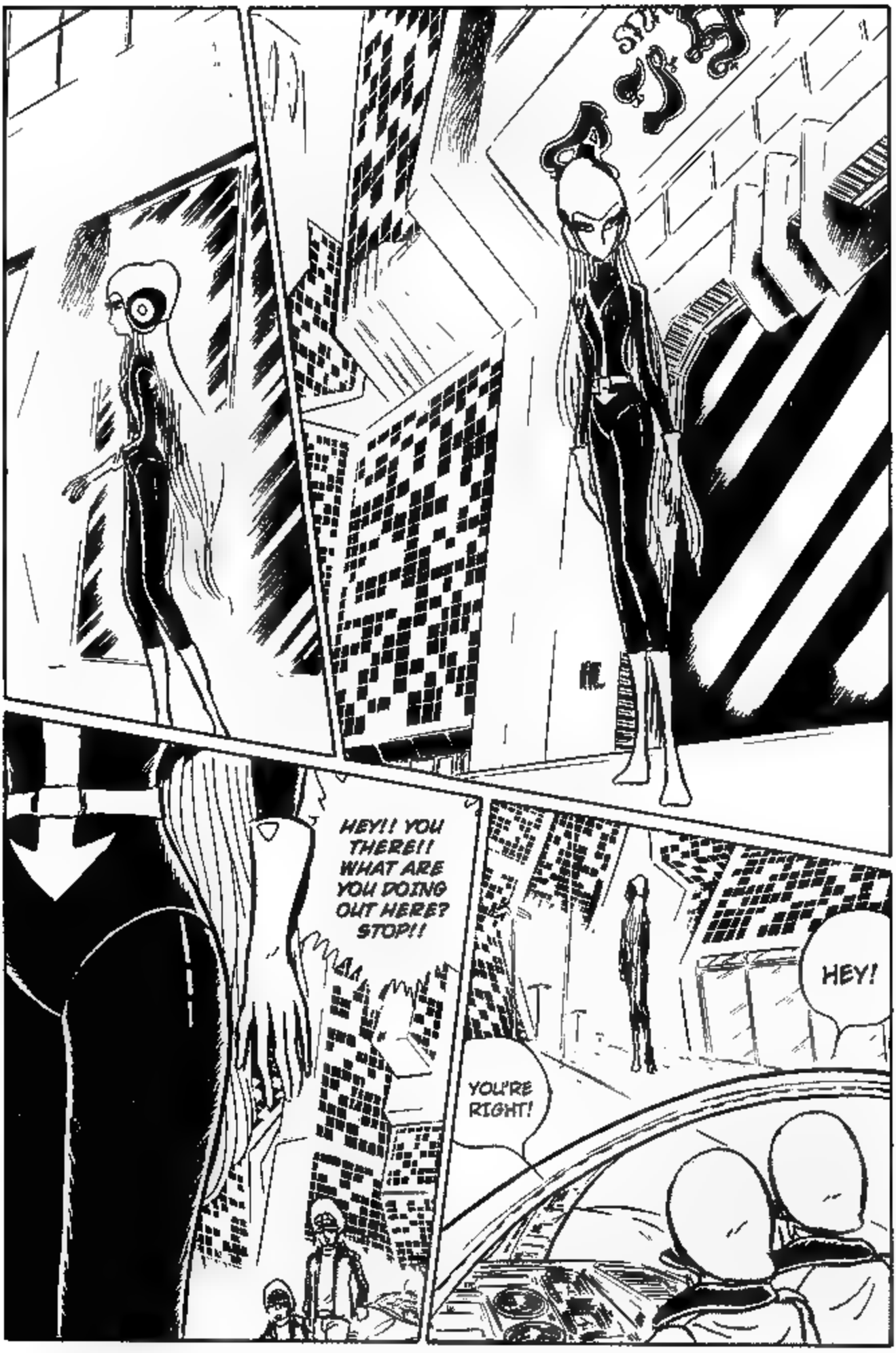

I WANT TO KNOW EMERALDUS' OBJECTIVE... THAT'S ALL I NEED TO KNOW...
AREA 633, ALL CLEAR... AREA 634, ALL CLEAR...
AREA 1000, ALL CLEAR...
NOTHING UNUSUAL DETECTED IN ANY AREA.
SFX: WOOO! WOOO! WOOO!
SFX: WOOO! WOOO! WOOO!

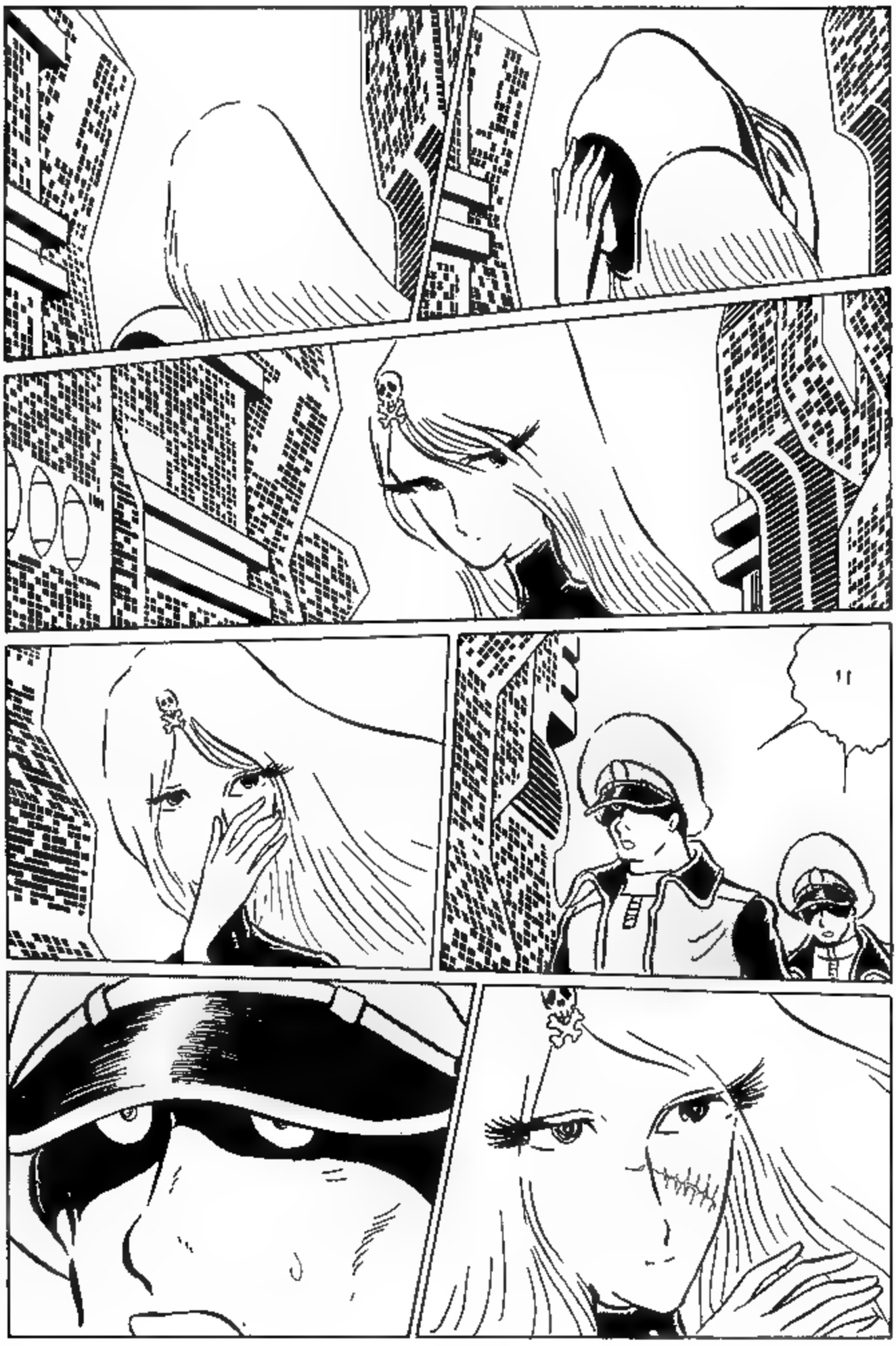
SFX: FWOOOOOSH!
SIGN: ANTAREN
SNACK
SNACK
SFX: FWOOOOOSH!
SFX: FWOOOOOSH!


MY LADY...
V·S
WHY DO YOU ASK?
DO YOU HAVE IDENTIFICATION FROM THE ADMINISTRATION BUREAU?
I HAVE IT WITH ME.
THANK YOU.
WELL, IT'S JUST THAT THE ADMINISTRATION BUREAU HAS SENT OUT PATROLS. THEY SEEM TO BE SEARCHING FOR SOMEONE. YOU'RE BETTER OFF BEING CAREFUL.
CYGNUS!? WELL, YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY. I'D LOVE TO TRAVEL THE SEA OF STARS LIKE YOU, EVEN JUST ONCE.
THIS PLANET FEELS RATHER STRANGE. IT'S ALMOST STUFFY.
I CAME FROM THE SECOND CYGNUS COLONY.
THANK GOODNESS. I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU. WE'RE SYMPATHETIC FOLK AROUND HERE.


FROM THE LOOKS OF IT, YOU SEEM TO BE A SCIENTIST OR AN ENGINEER. WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
BUT I'M GOING TO LIVE MY WHOLE LIFE POLISHING LIQUOR BOTTLES...
Sake
Sake
Sake
I SEE.. SO THAT'S WHAT KIND OF PLANET THIS IS...
UNTIL THEN, I DID BASIC DESIGNING FOR FLUID ENGINES.
HAHAHA... WELL, I STARTED BALDING, AND I WAS DRIVEN FROM MY WORKPLACE FOR BEING TOO UGLY
BUT WHAT HAPPENS TO OUTSIDERS WHO COME HERE THAT ARE BOW-LEGGED OR UGLY... THAT HAVE UNSIGHTLY FIGURES?
IT'S THE HUMAN RANCH IN AREA 4984. YOU COULD CALL IT A FACTORY.
WHERE'S THIS INTERNMENT CAMP?
THEY'RE CAUGHT AND THROWN INTO THE INTERNMENT CAMP

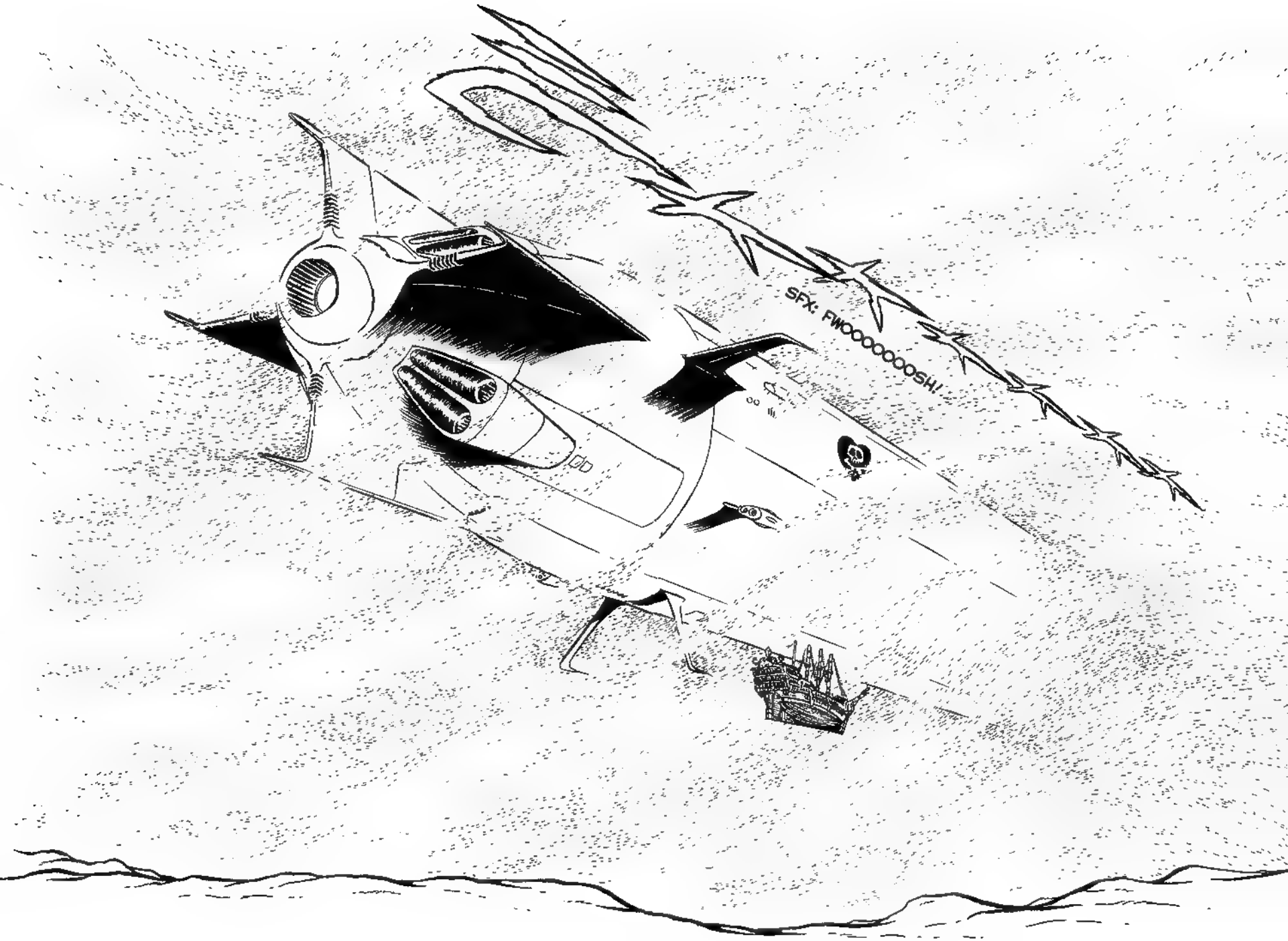

I SEE...
MY LADY...
YES...?
FARE-WELL...
BE CAREFUL NOW... EVERYONE'S GOT SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO...
THANK YOU, BARTENDER. YOU DON'T SEEM TO HAVE BEEN BORN HERE.
I HOPE WE MEET AGAIN ON THE SEA OF STARS...
THAT'S WHAT GETS ME THROUGH POLISHING BOTTLES.

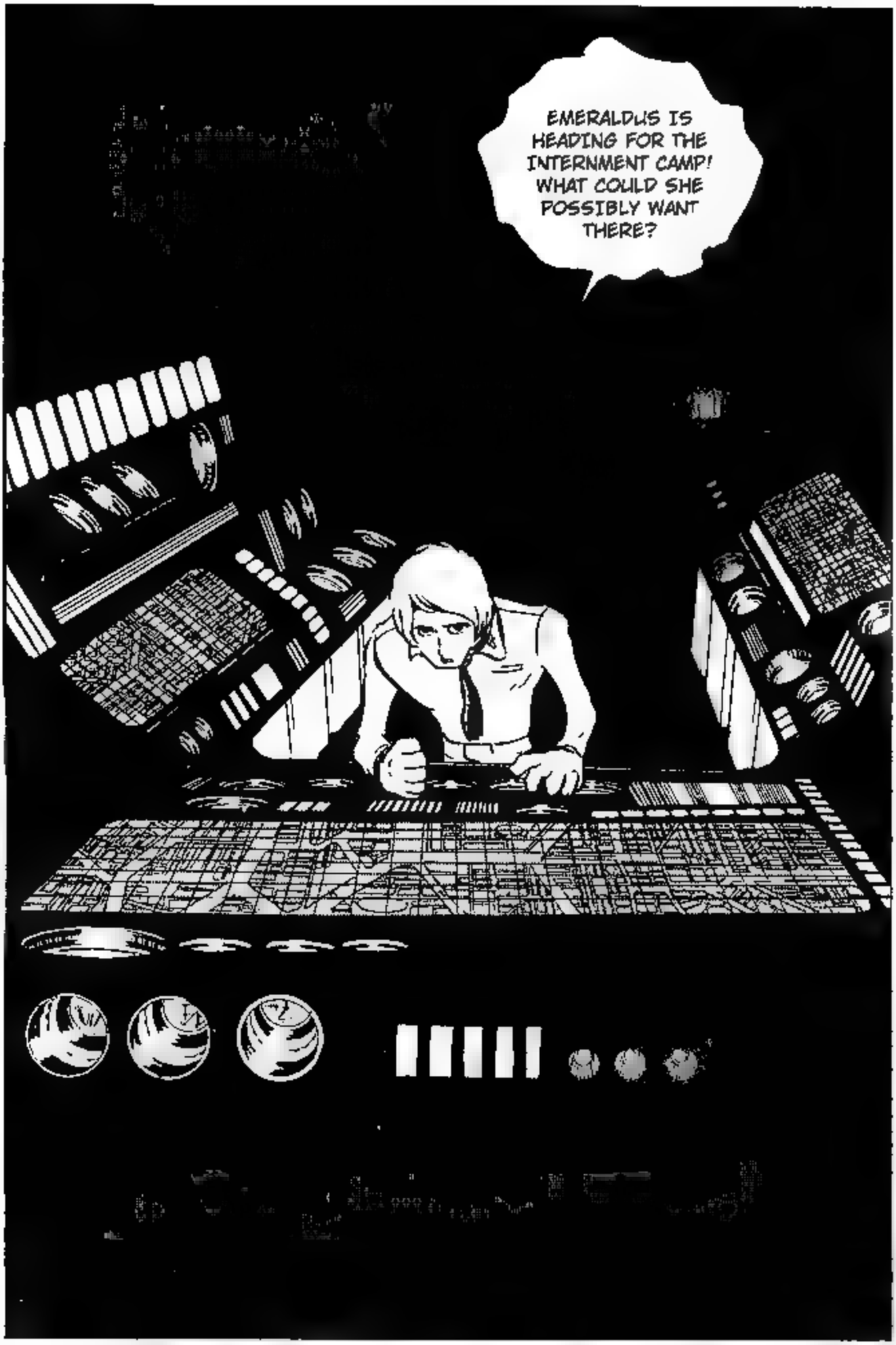

HEY!! YOU THERE!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE? STOP!!
HEY!
YOU'RE RIGHT!

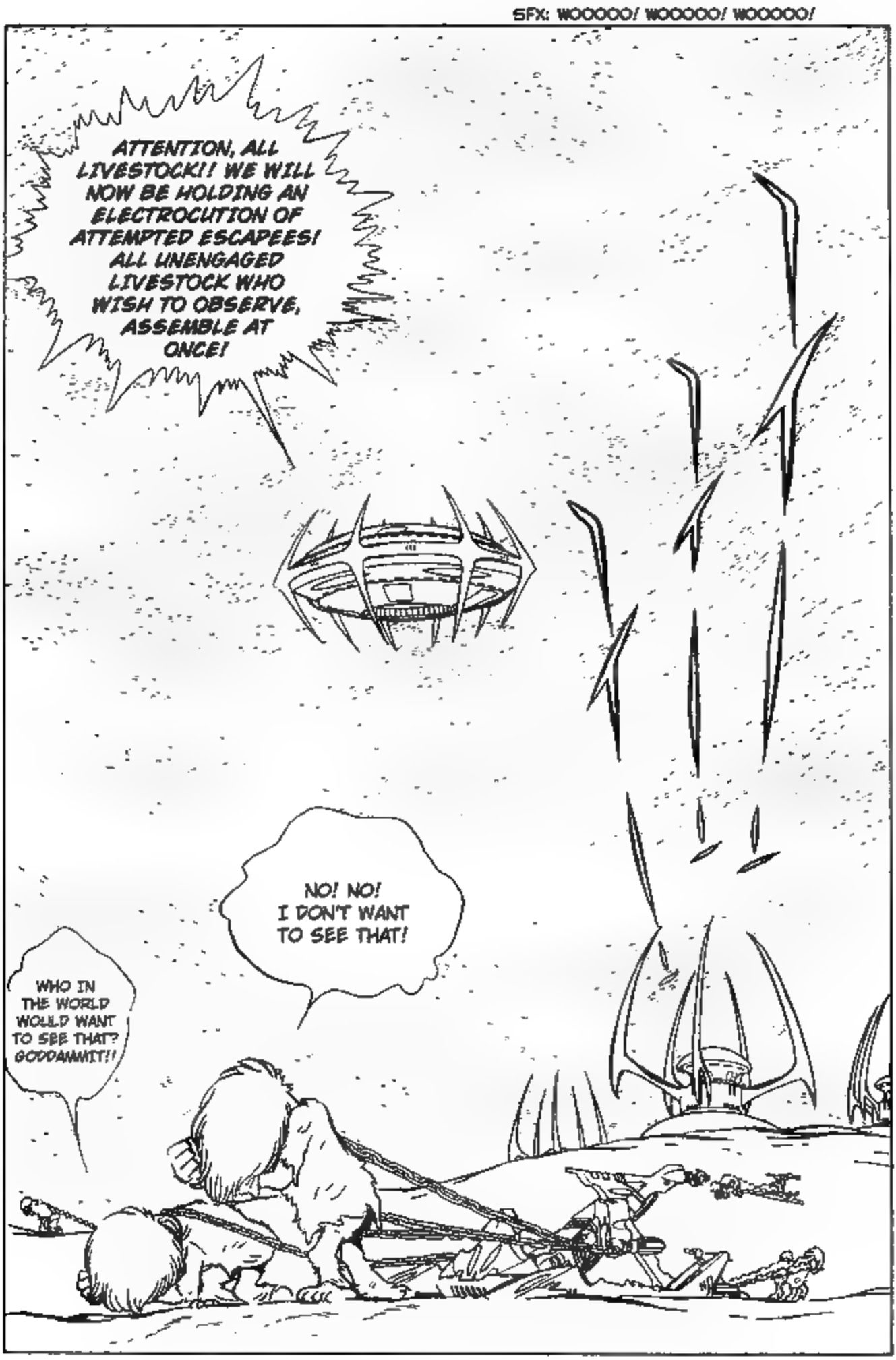


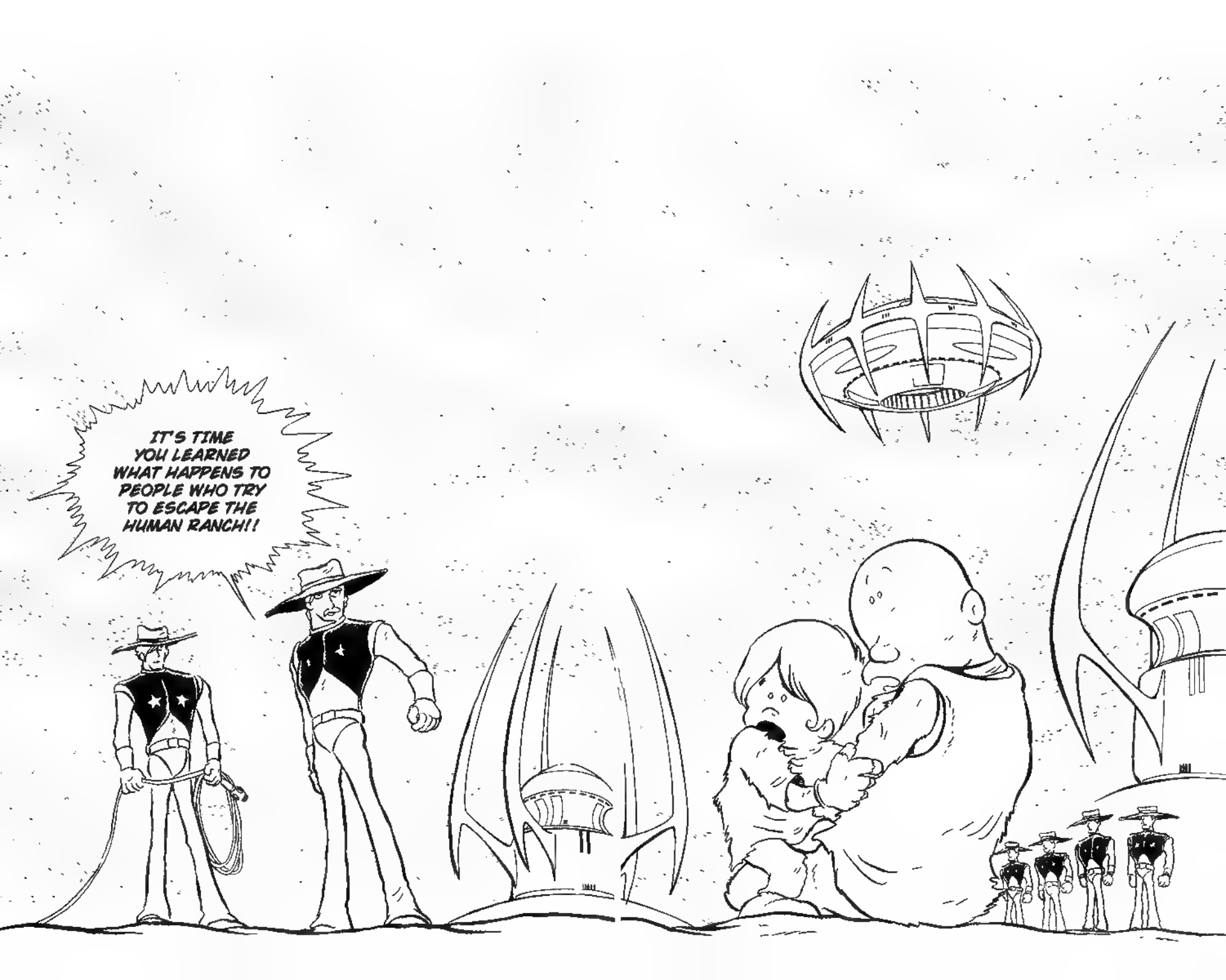
SFX: CRAAAAACK! / PSSSHHHHHH!

HMPH!!
WHERE DID SHE GO AFTER THAT?
WHAT? YOU ENCOUNTERED EMERALDUS IN THE DOWNTOWN?
WE'VE DETECTED AN UNIDENTIFIED SPACESHIP HEADING FOR THE HUMAN RANCH IN AREA 4984. .!!


SFX: FWOOOOOOOSH!

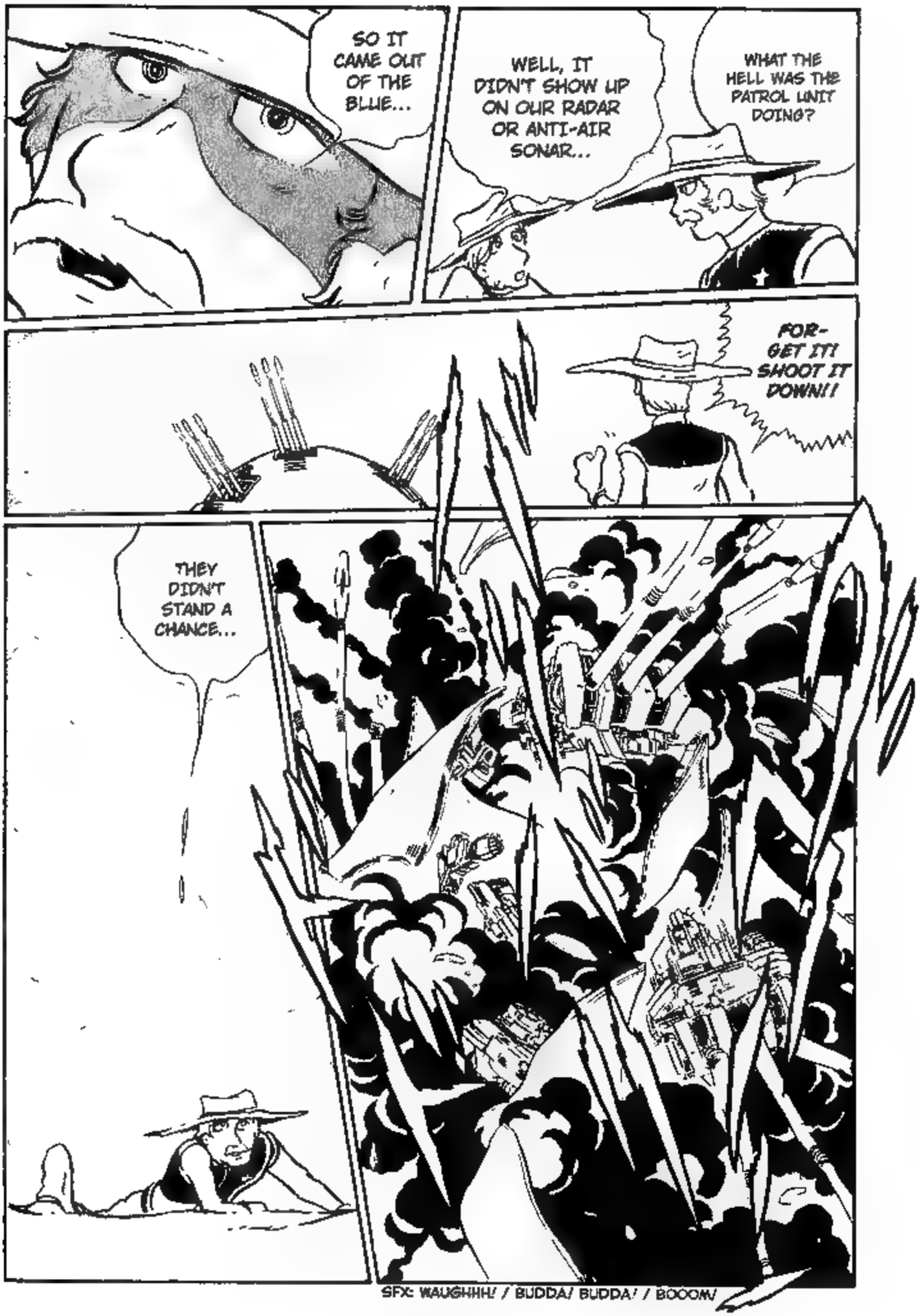

EMERALDUS IS HEADING FOR THE INTERNMENT CAMP! WHAT COULD SHE POSSIBLY WANT THERE?

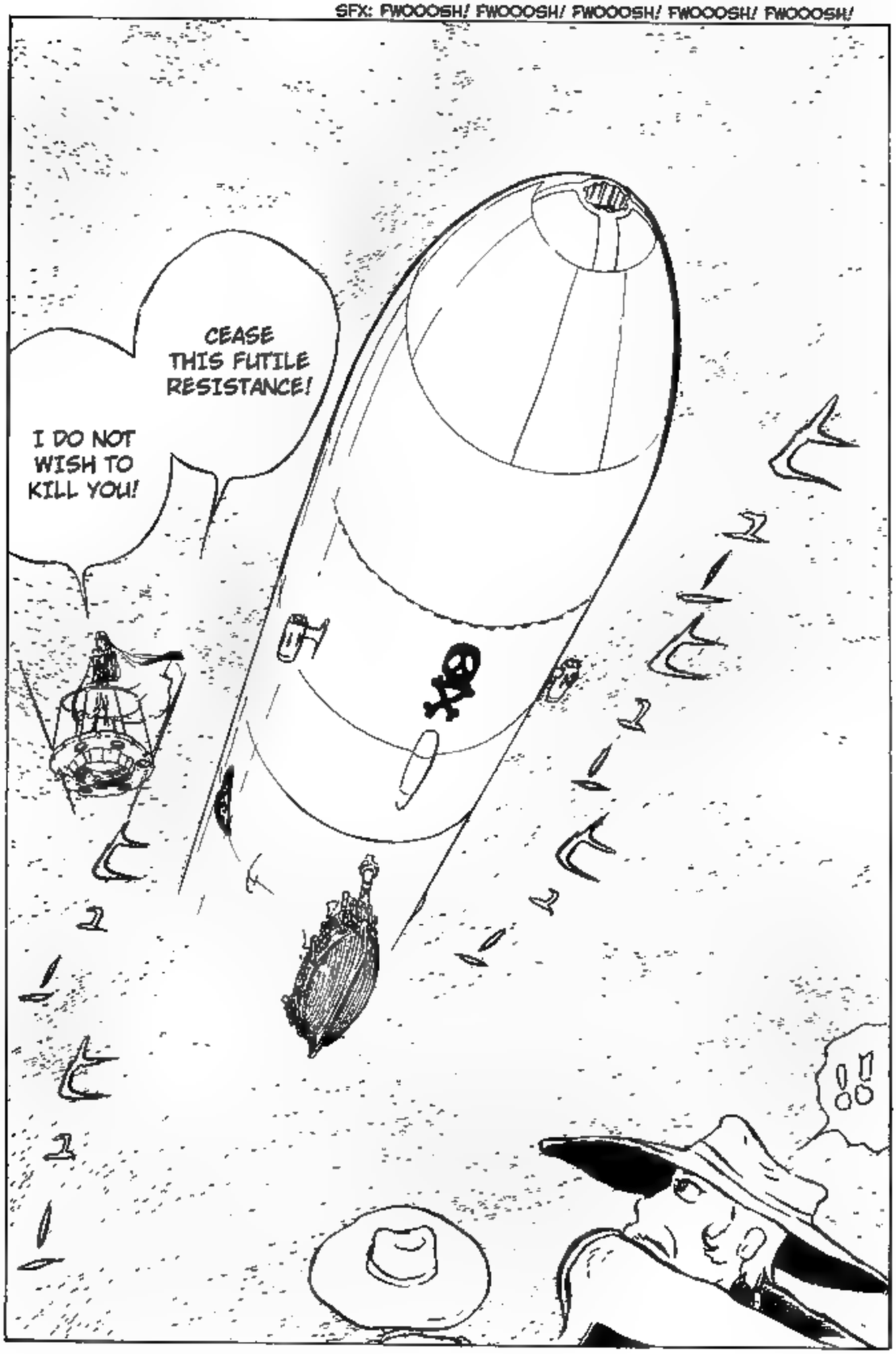

SFX: WOOOOO/ WOOOOO/ WOOOOO/
ATTENTION, ALL LIVESTOCK!! WE WILL NOW BE HOLDING AN ELECTROCUTION OF ATTEMPTED ESCAPEES! ALL UNENGAGED LIVESTOCK WHO WISH TO OBSERVE, ASSEMBLE AT ONCE!
NO! NO! I DON'T WANT TO SEE THAT!
WHO IN THE WORLD WOULD WANT TO SEE THAT? GODDAMMIT!!


IT'S TIME YOU LEARNED WHAT HAPPENS TO PEOPLE WHO TRY TO ESCAPE THE HUMAN RANCH!!

PLEASE, NO! DON'T HARM THE CHILD! GIVE ME 600 LASHES IF YOU MUST!!
YOU EACH GET 300 LASHES WITH THE ELECTRIC WHIP!!
WAWA-WAH...
SHUT UP!! OUT OF THE WAY!!
SFX: KA-BOOOOOM!
SFX: SWOOOSH!

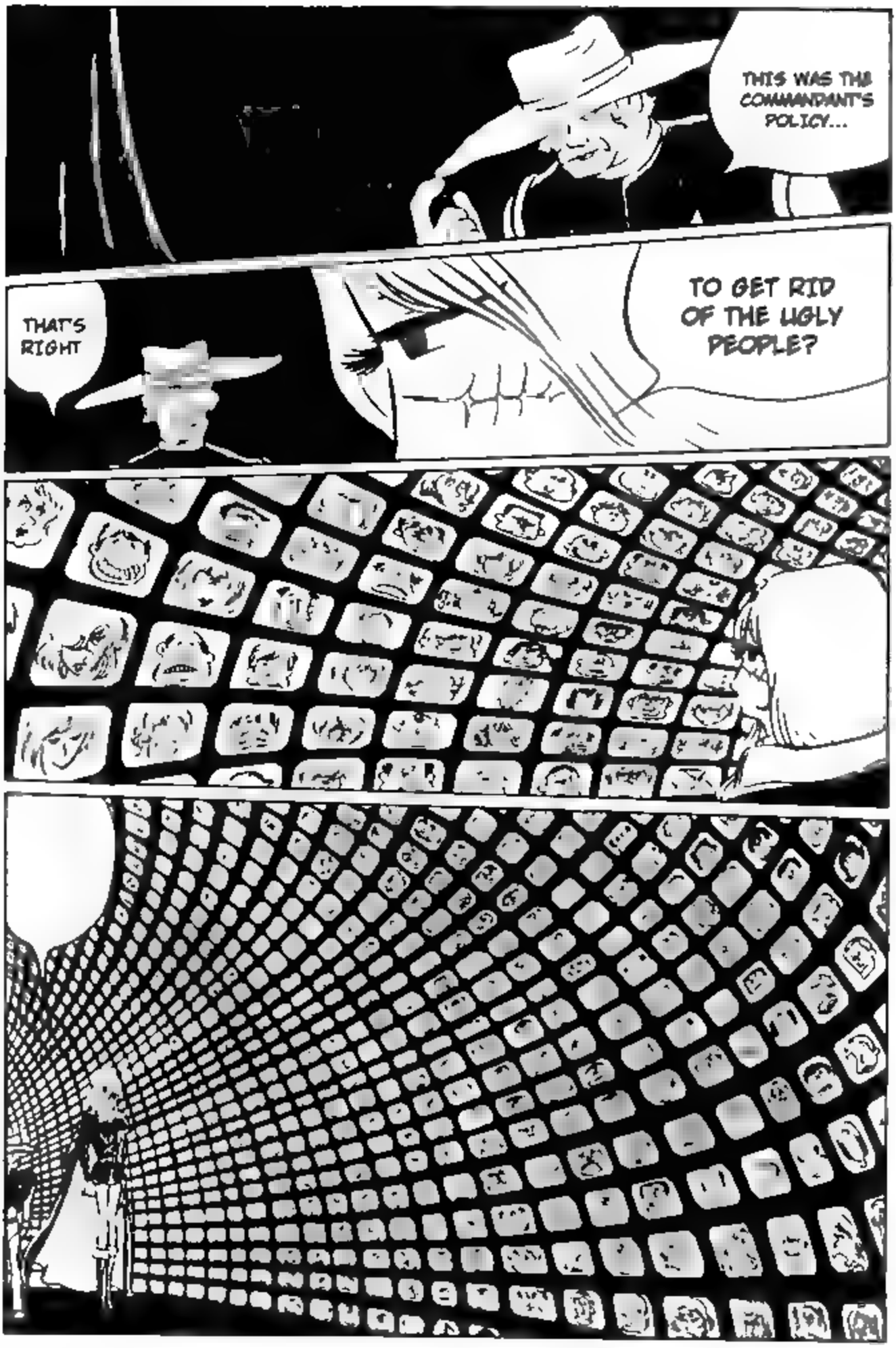
THE QUEEN EMERALDUS IS HEADING YOUR WAY! BE VIGILANT!
WARDEN! ORDERS FROM THE COMMAN-DANT!
FORGET VIGILANCE! SHE'S ALREADY HERE!!
SFX: FWOOOOOSH!

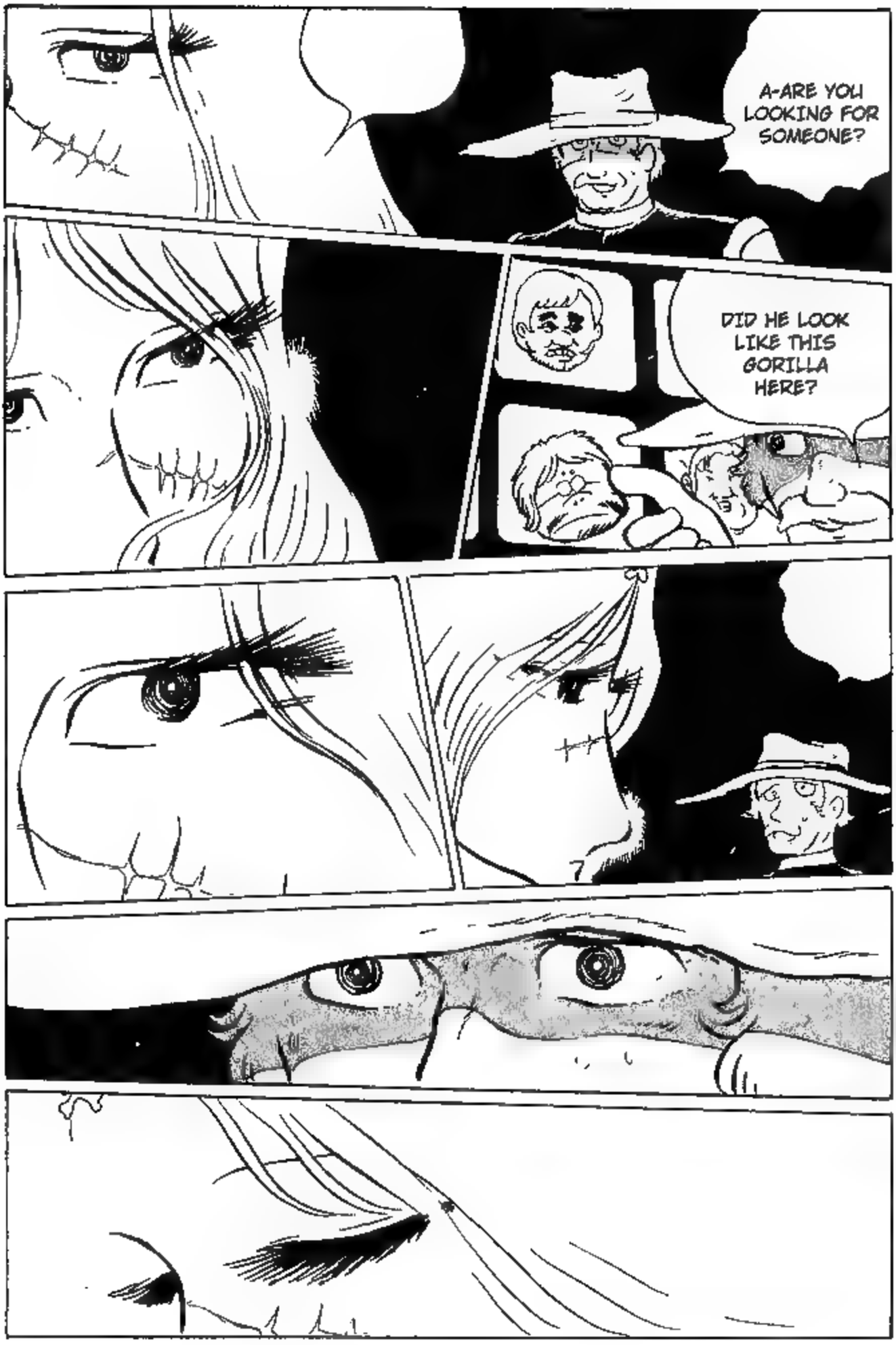

SO IT CAME OUT OF THE BLUE...
WELL, IT DIDN'T SHOW UP ON OUR RADAR OR ANTI-AIR SONAR...
WHAT THE HELL WAS THE PATROL UNIT DOING?
FOR-GET IT! SHOOT IT DOWN!!
THEY DIDN'T STAND A CHANCE...
SFX: WAUGHHH! / BUDDA! BUDDA! / BOOOM!


SFX: FWOOOSH! FWOOOSH! FWOOOSH! FWOOOSH! FWOOOSH!
CEASE THIS FUTILE RESISTANCE!
I DO NOT WISH TO KILL YOU!
!!

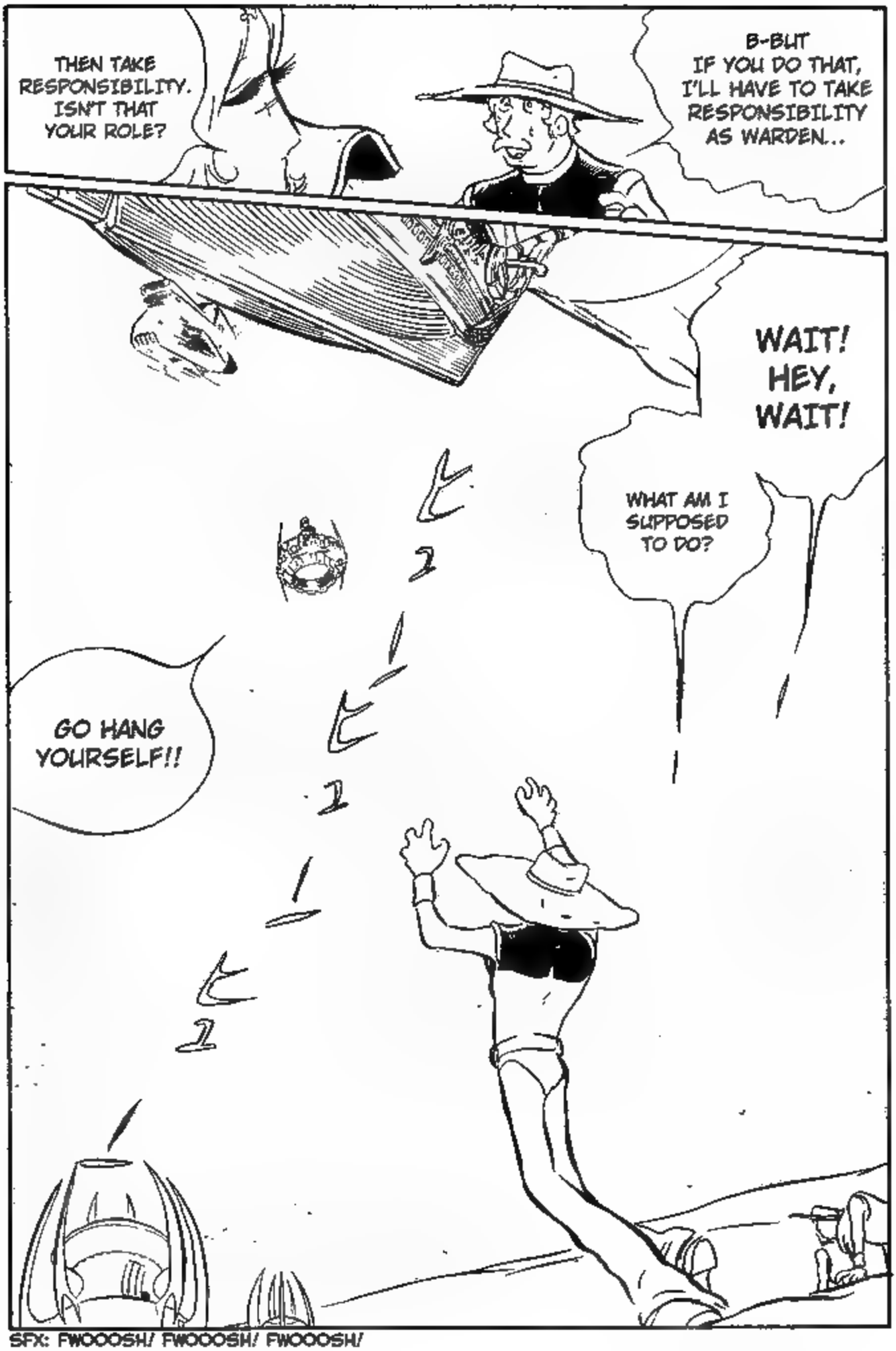
EVEN THE DEAD?
ALL OF THEM.
YES, EVEN THE DEAD...
SFX: FWOOOOOSH!
EMER-ALDUS!
I WANT THE RECORDS OF ALL HUMANS THAT HAVE BEEN INTERNED IN THIS CAMP.
ALL OF THEM?
G-GO RIGHT AHEAD.
SHE'S ALONE NOW. WE CAN TAKE HER!

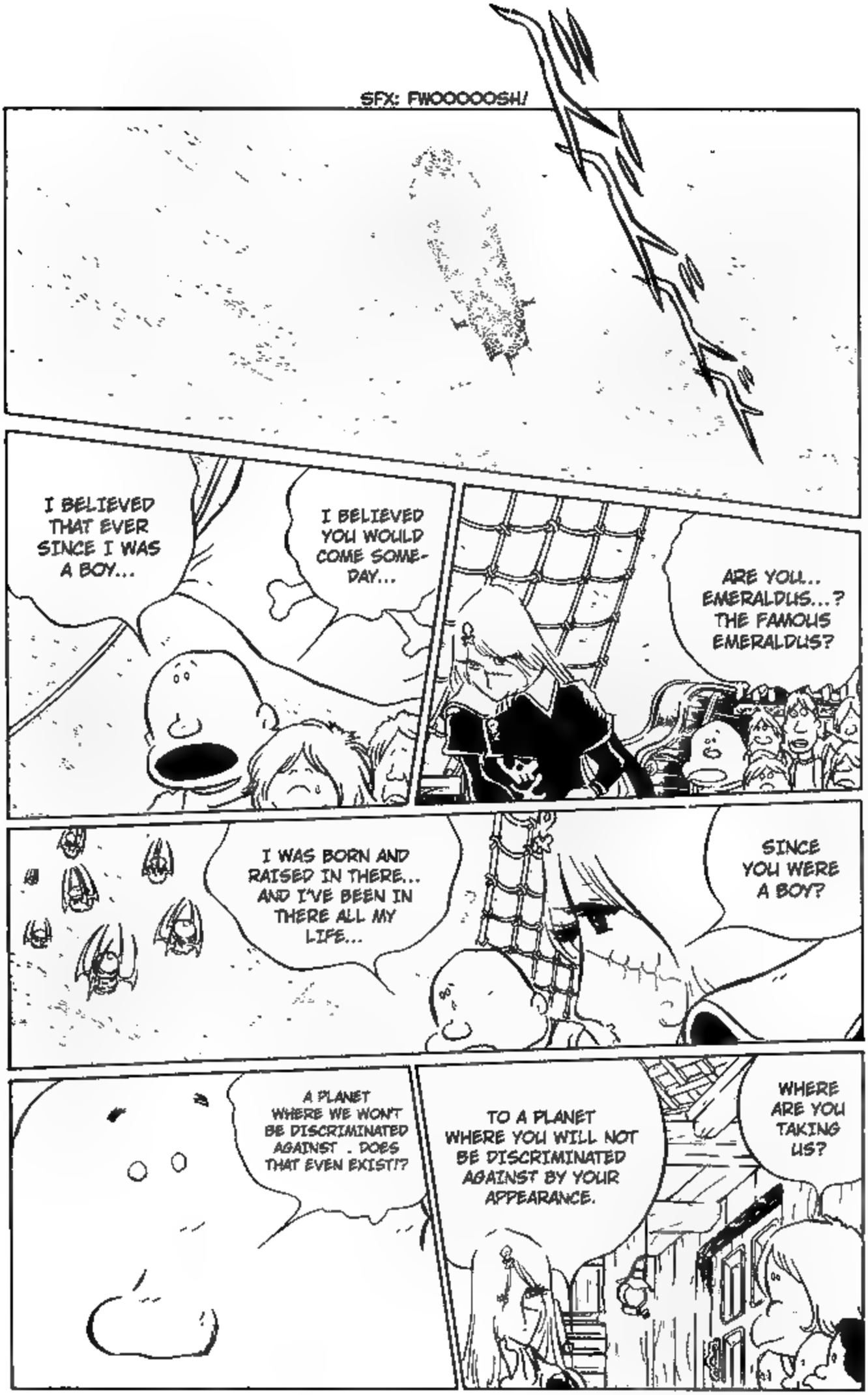
WOULD YOU CARE TO TRY?
GO ON, TAKE A LOOK.
THESE ARE ALL INTERNS OVER THE PAST FIFTY YEARS.
CASUALTIES ARE INDICATED BY A RED LIGHT UNDERNEATH...
BUT ALMOST ALL OF THEM HAVE RED LIGHTS!!

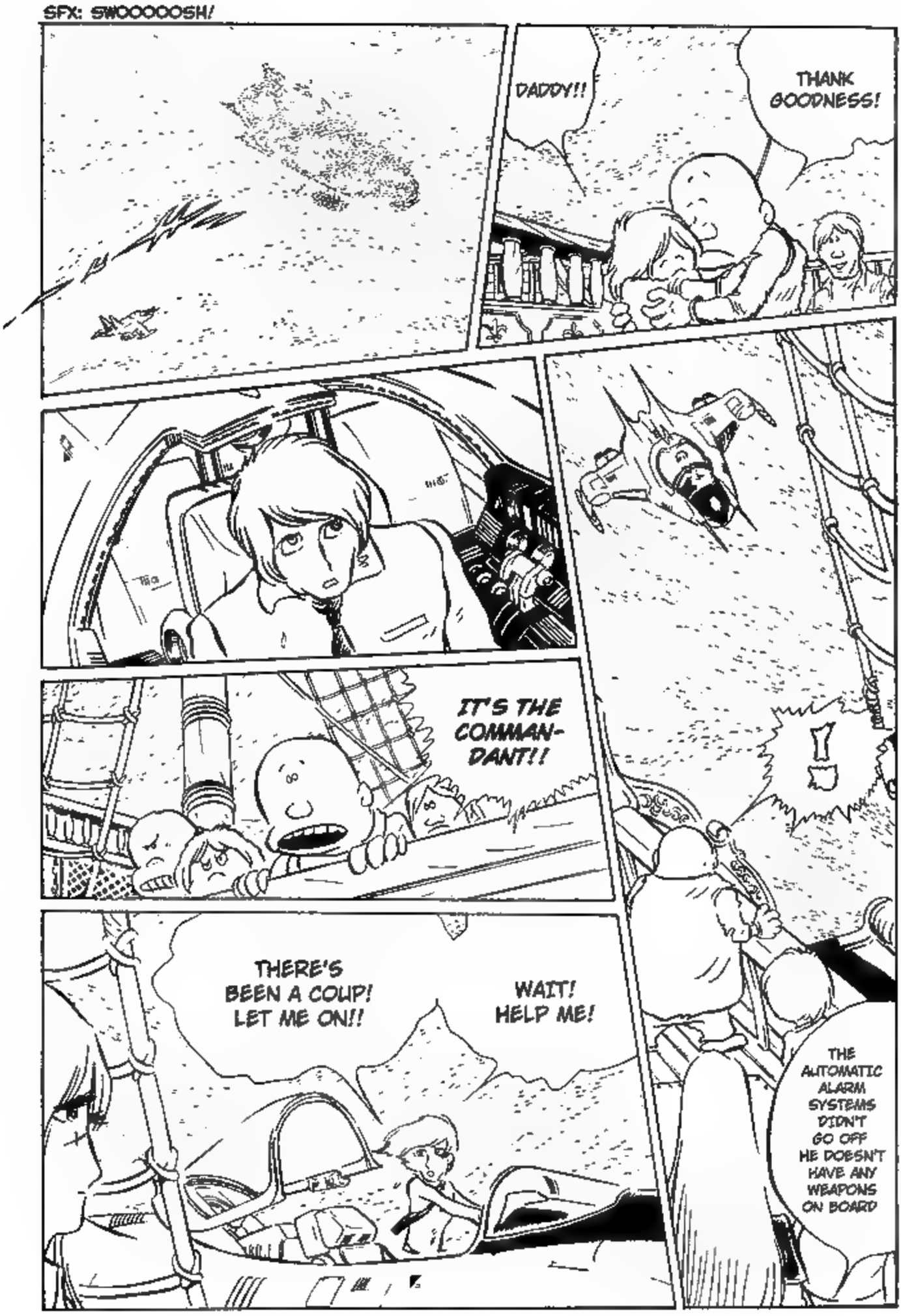

THIS WAS THE COMMANDANT'S POLICY...
TO GET RID OF THE UGLY PEOPLE?
THAT'S RIGHT

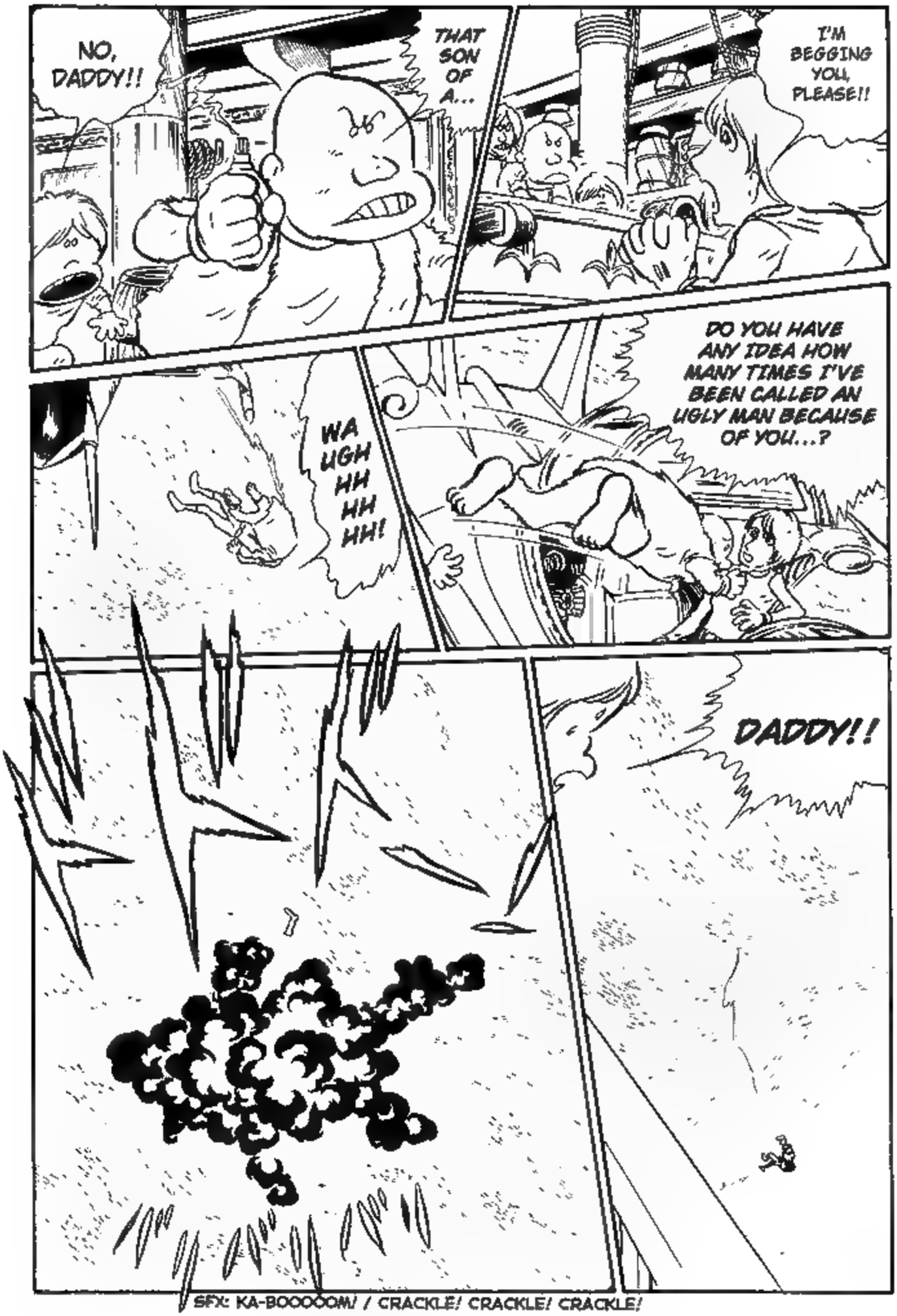

A-ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SOMEONE?
DID HE LOOK LIKE THIS GORILLA HERE?

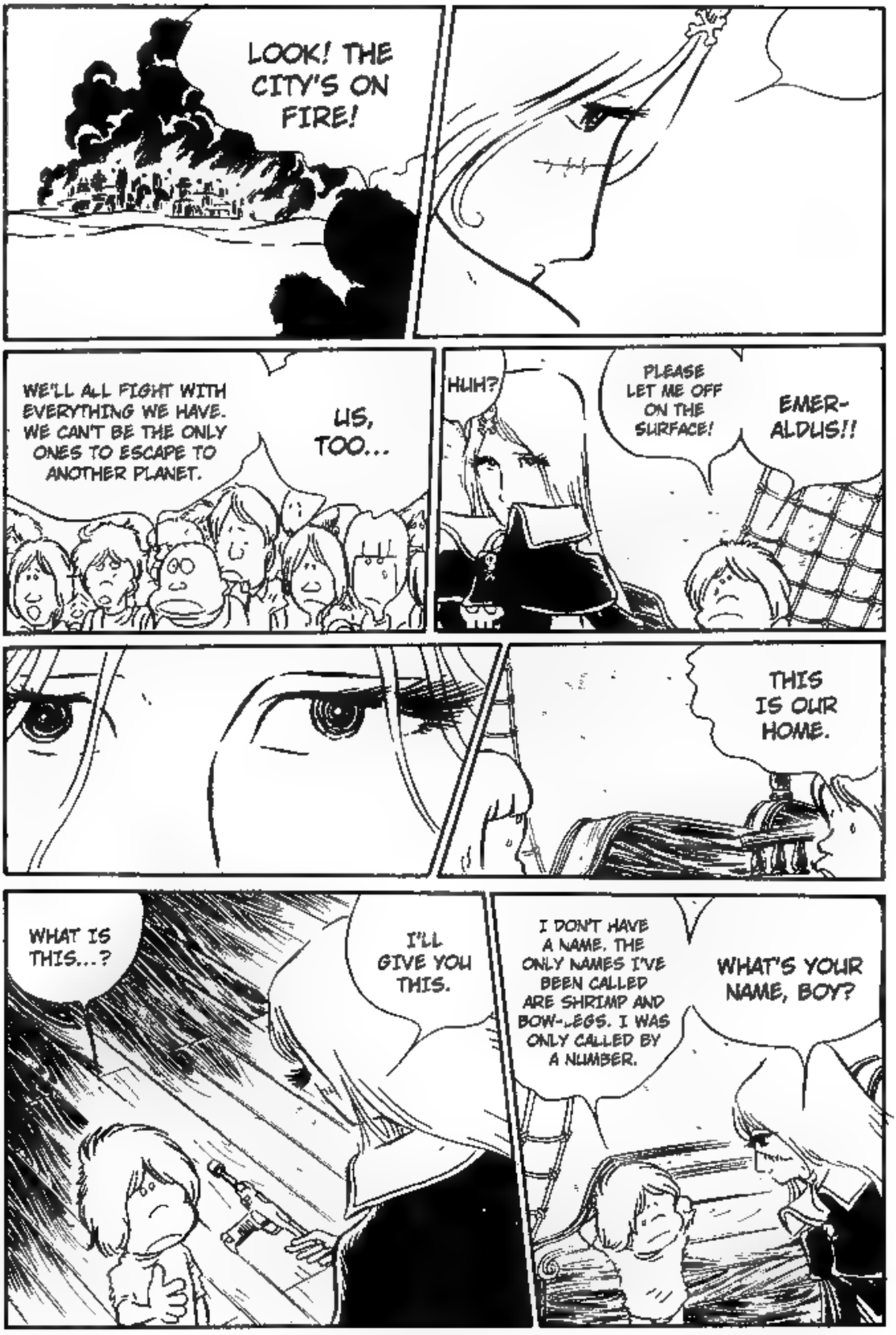
OH...
HE'S NOT HERE.
HE NEVER CAME HERE!!
I DIDN'T THINK THAT HE WOULD BE HERE...
BUT I'M GLAD I TRIED.
I'LL BE TAKING THEM ALL.
HUH !?


THEN TAKE RESPONSIBILITY. ISN'T THAT YOUR ROLE?
B-BUT IF YOU DO THAT, I'LL HAVE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY AS WARDEN..
WAIT! HEY, WAIT!
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?
GO HANG YOURSELF!!
SFX: FWOOOSH/ FWOOOSH/ FWOOOSH/

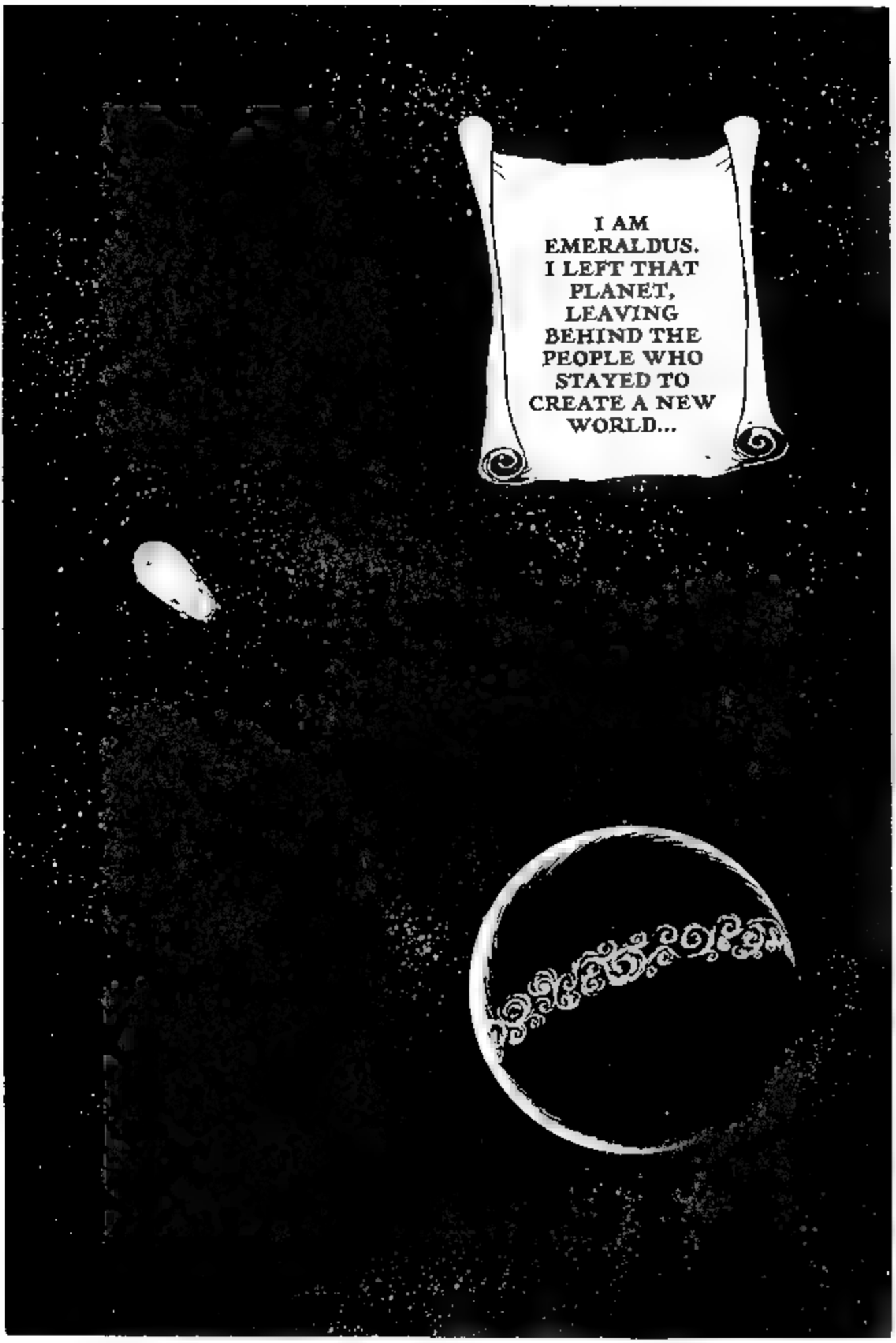

SFX: FWOOOOOSH!
I BELIEVED THAT EVER SINCE I WAS A BOY...
I BELIEVED YOU WOULD COME SOME-DAY...
ARE YOU... EMERALDUS...? THE FAMOUS EMERALDUS?
I WAS BORN AND RAISED IN THERE... AND I'VE BEEN IN THERE ALL MY LIFE...
SINCE YOU WERE A BOY?
A PLANET WHERE WE WON'T BE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST . DOES THAT EVEN EXIST!?
TO A PLANET WHERE YOU WILL NOT BE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST BY YOUR APPEARANCE.
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING US?

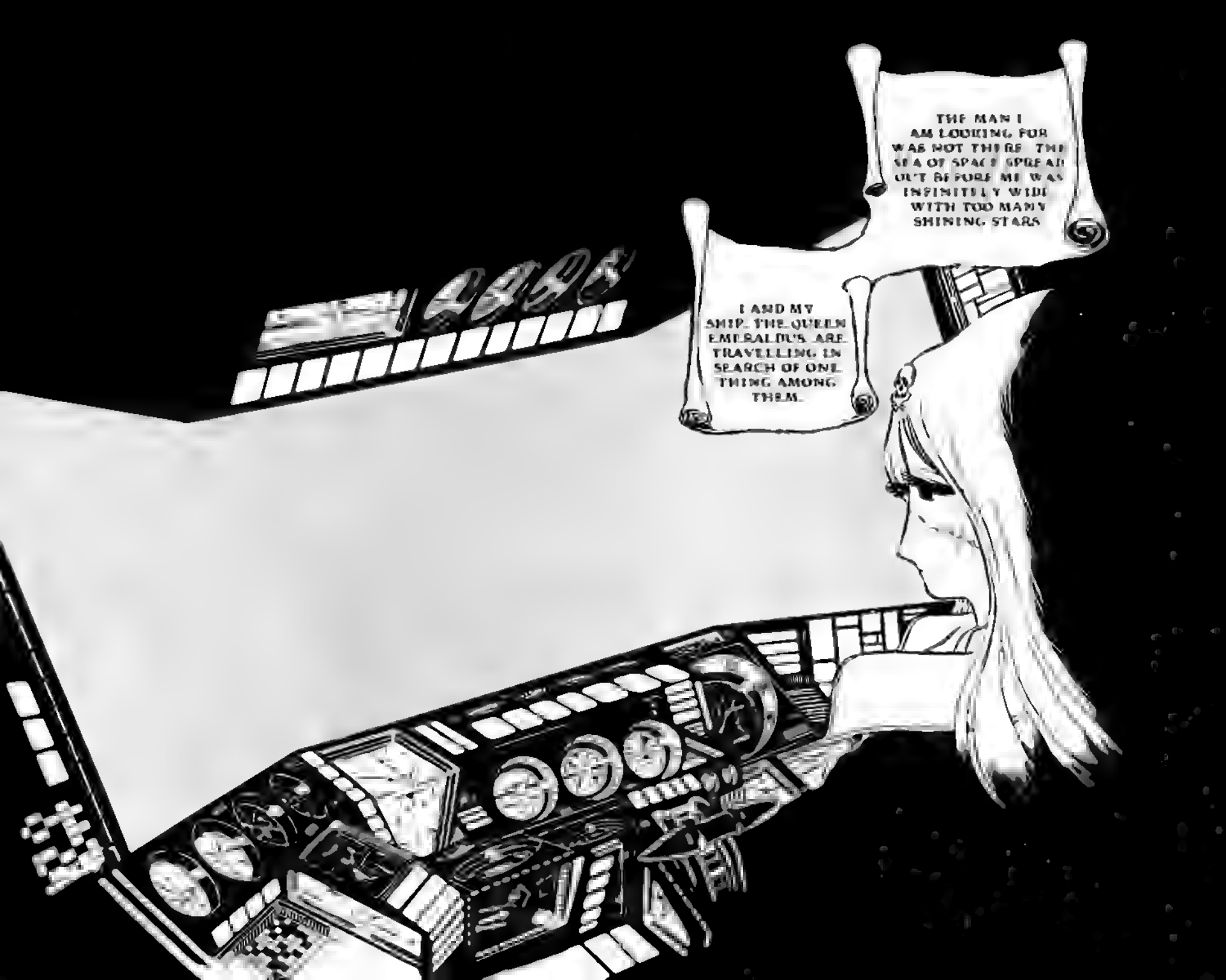

SFX: SWOOOOOSH!
DADDY!!
THANK GOODNESS!
IT'S THE COMMAN-DANT!!
THERE'S BEEN A COUP! LET ME ON!!
WAIT! HELP ME!
THE AUTOMATIC ALARM SYSTEMS DIDN'T GO OFF HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY WEAPONS ON BOARD

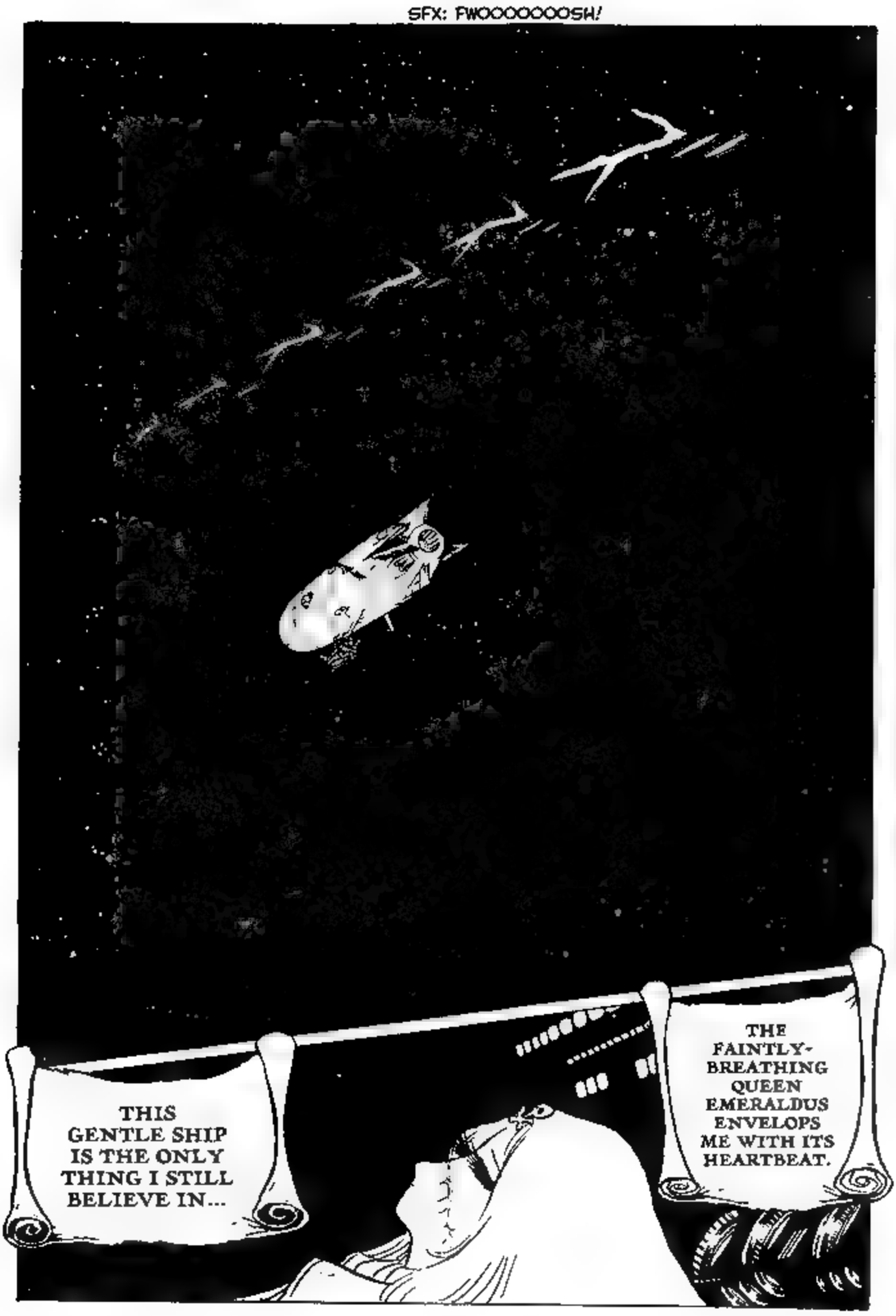

NO, DADDY!!
THAT SON OF A...
I'M BEGGING YOU, PLEASE!!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MANY TIMES I'VE BEEN CALLED AN UGLY MAN BECAUSE OF YOU...?
WA UGH HH HH HH!
DADDY!!
SFX: KA-BOOOOOM! / CRACKLE! CRACKLE! CRACKLE!

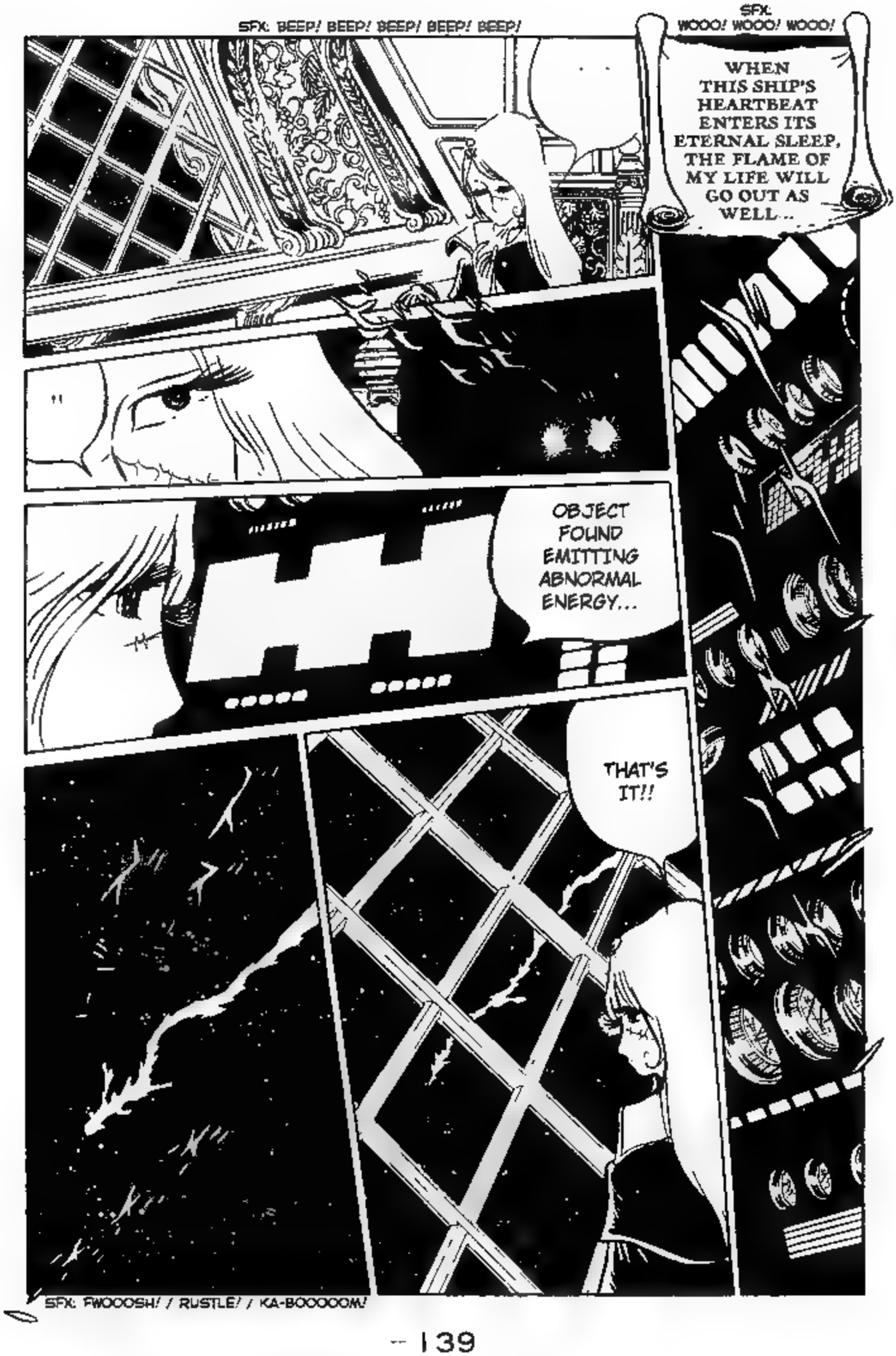

LOOK! THE CITY'S ON FIRE!
WE'LL ALL FIGHT WITH EVERYTHING WE HAVE. WE CAN'T BE THE ONLY ONES TO ESCAPE TO ANOTHER PLANET.
US, TOO...
HUH?
PLEASE LET ME OFF ON THE SURFACE!
EMER-ALDUS!!
THIS IS OUR HOME.
WHAT IS THIS...?
I'LL GIVE YOU THIS.
I DON'T HAVE A NAME. THE ONLY NAMES I'VE BEEN CALLED ARE SHRIMP AND BOW-LEGS. I WAS ONLY CALLED BY A NUMBER.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME, BOY?

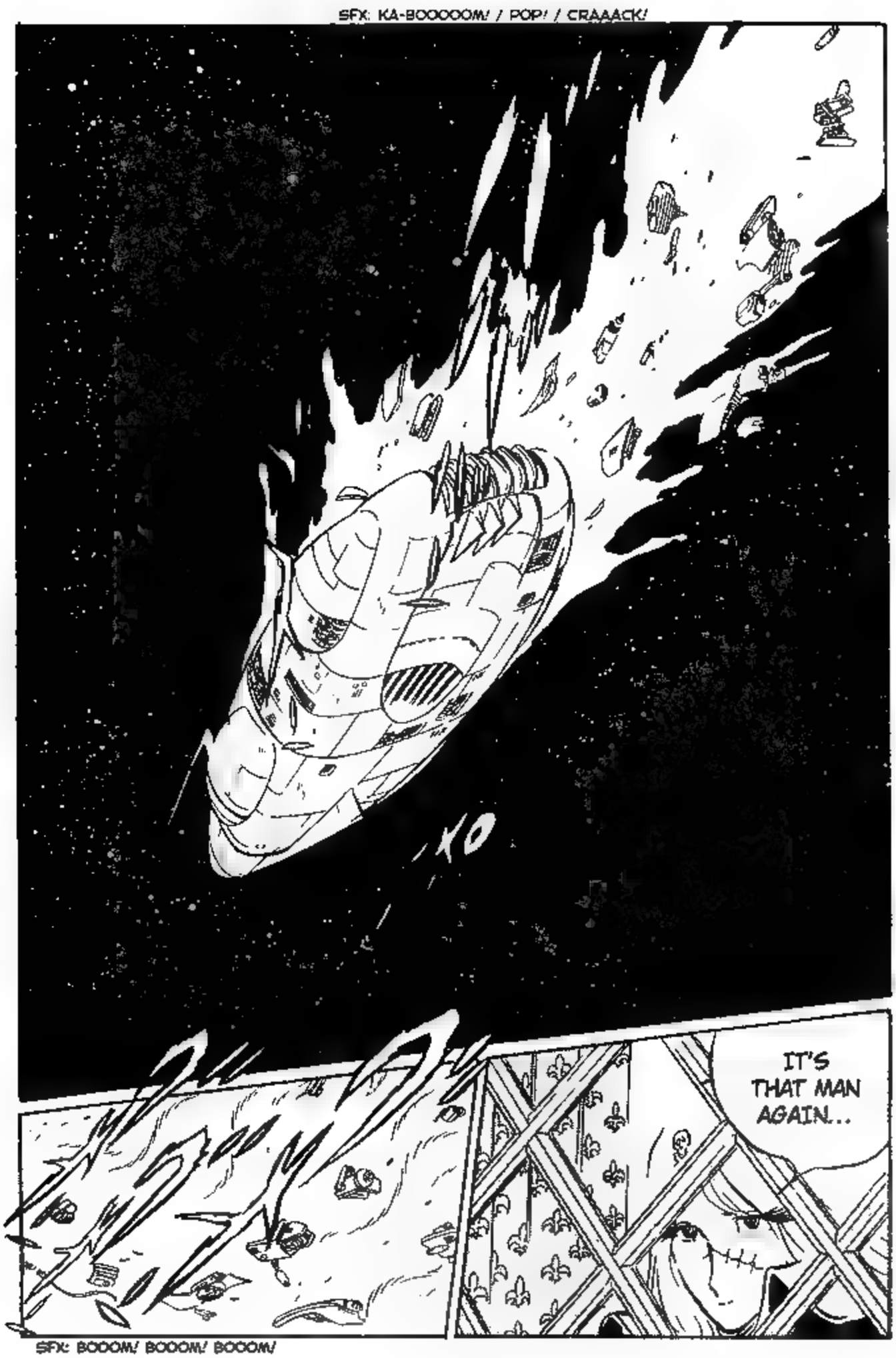
EMERALDUS, IF I EVER SEE THE PERSON YOU'RE LOOKING FOR, I CAN LET HIM KNOW. DO YOU HAVE A PICTURE...?
THAT PERSON MUST'VE BEEN LIKE YOU WHEN HE WAS LITTLE.
IT USED TO BELONG TO THE PERSON I'M LOOKING FOR.
I'LL FIND HIM MYSELF.
NO.
I MUST FIND HIM MYSELF.
I MUST FIND HIM ON MY OWN.
EVEN IF I SHOULD BECOME A GHOST ON THE SEA OF STARS...
THAT PERSON YOU'RE LOOKING FOR... MUST BE REALLY NICE!!

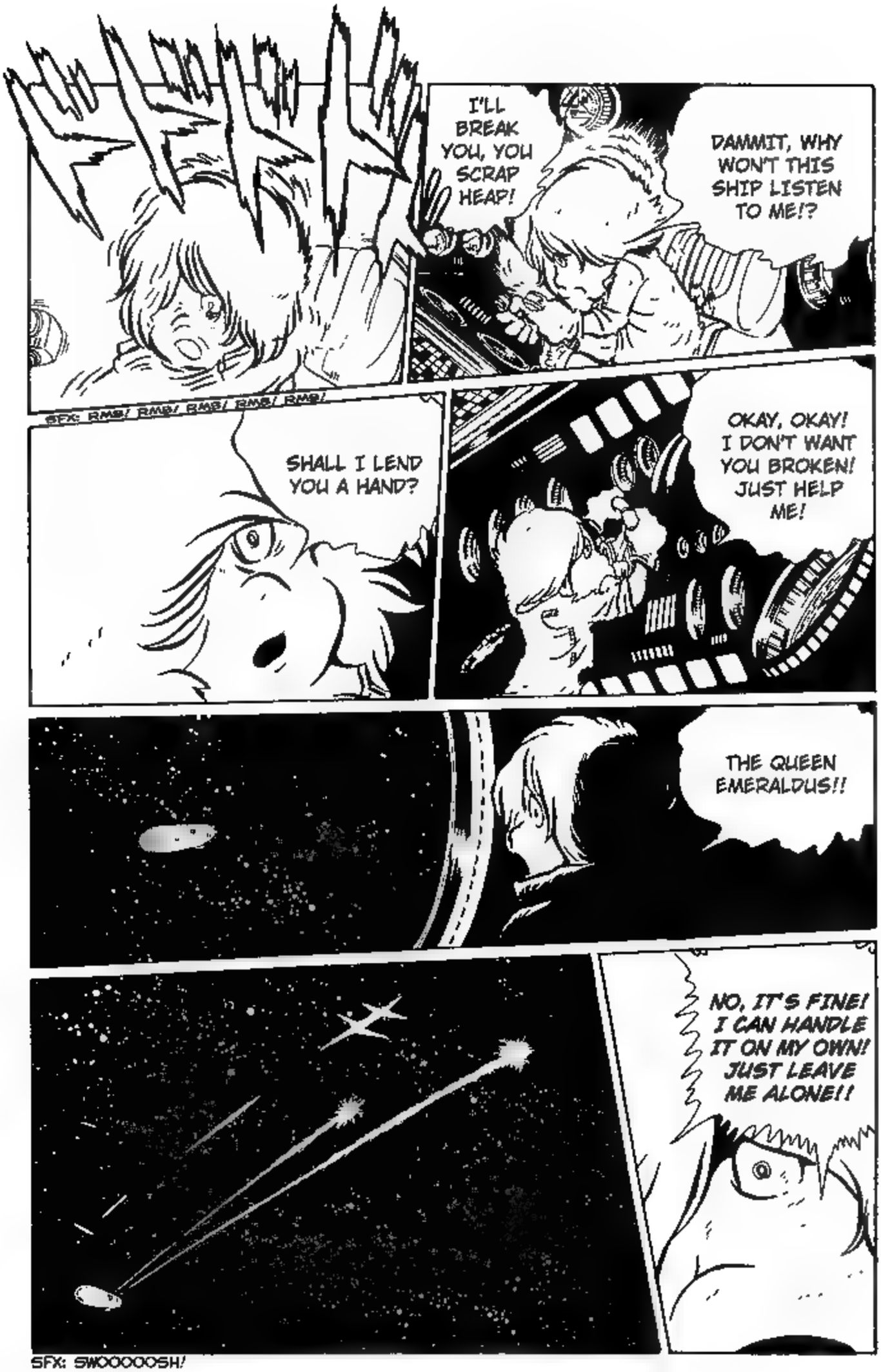

I AM EMERALDUS. I LEFT THAT PLANET, LEAVING BEHIND THE PEOPLE WHO STAYED TO CREATE A NEW WORLD...

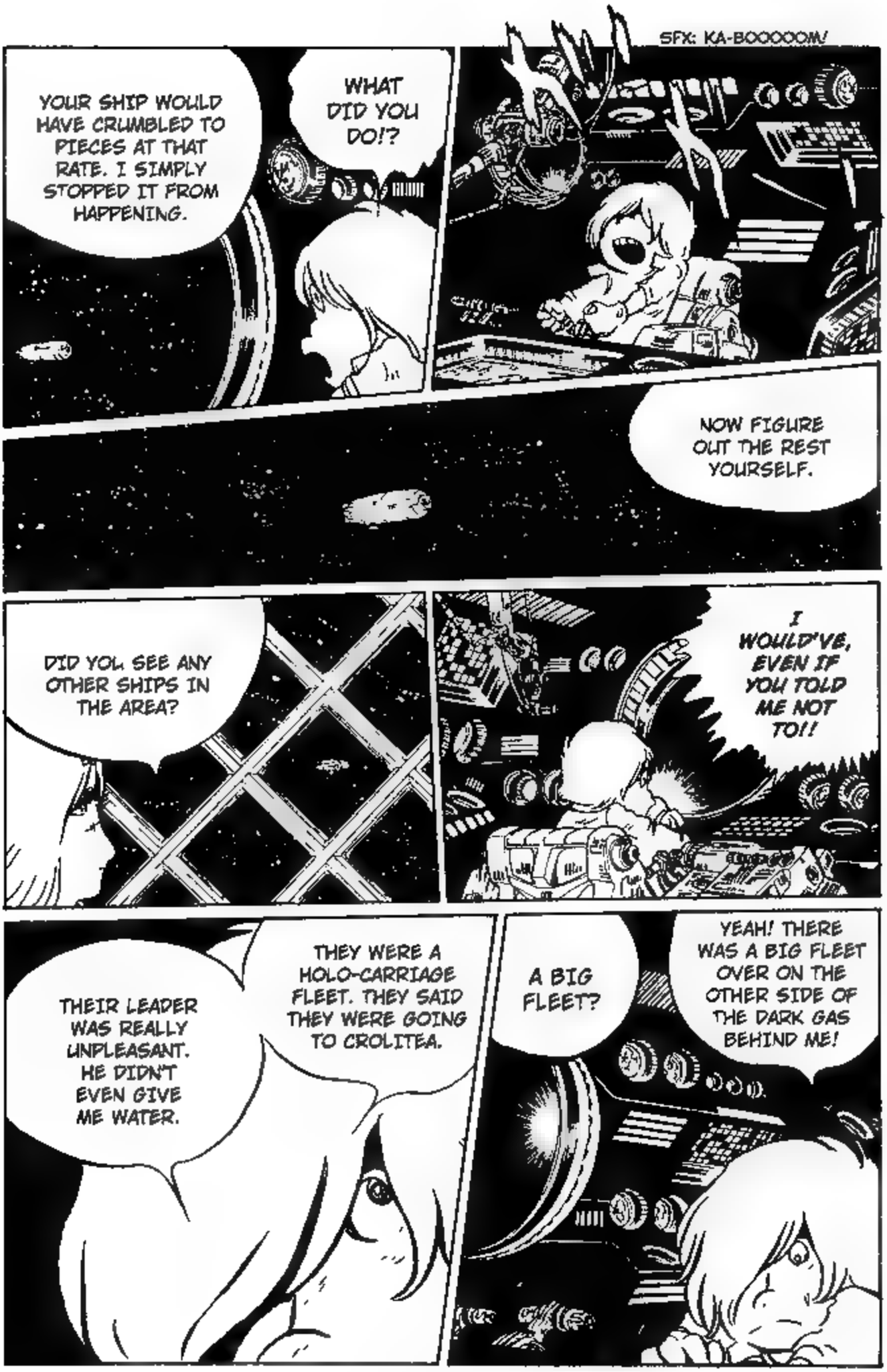

I AND MY SHIP, THE QUEEN EMERALDUS ARE TRAVELLING IN SEARCH OF ONE THING AMONG THEM.
THE MAN I AM LOOKING FOR WAS NOT THERE. THE SEA OF SPACE SPREAD OUT BEFORE ME WAS INFINITELY WIDE WITH TOO MANY SHINING STARS

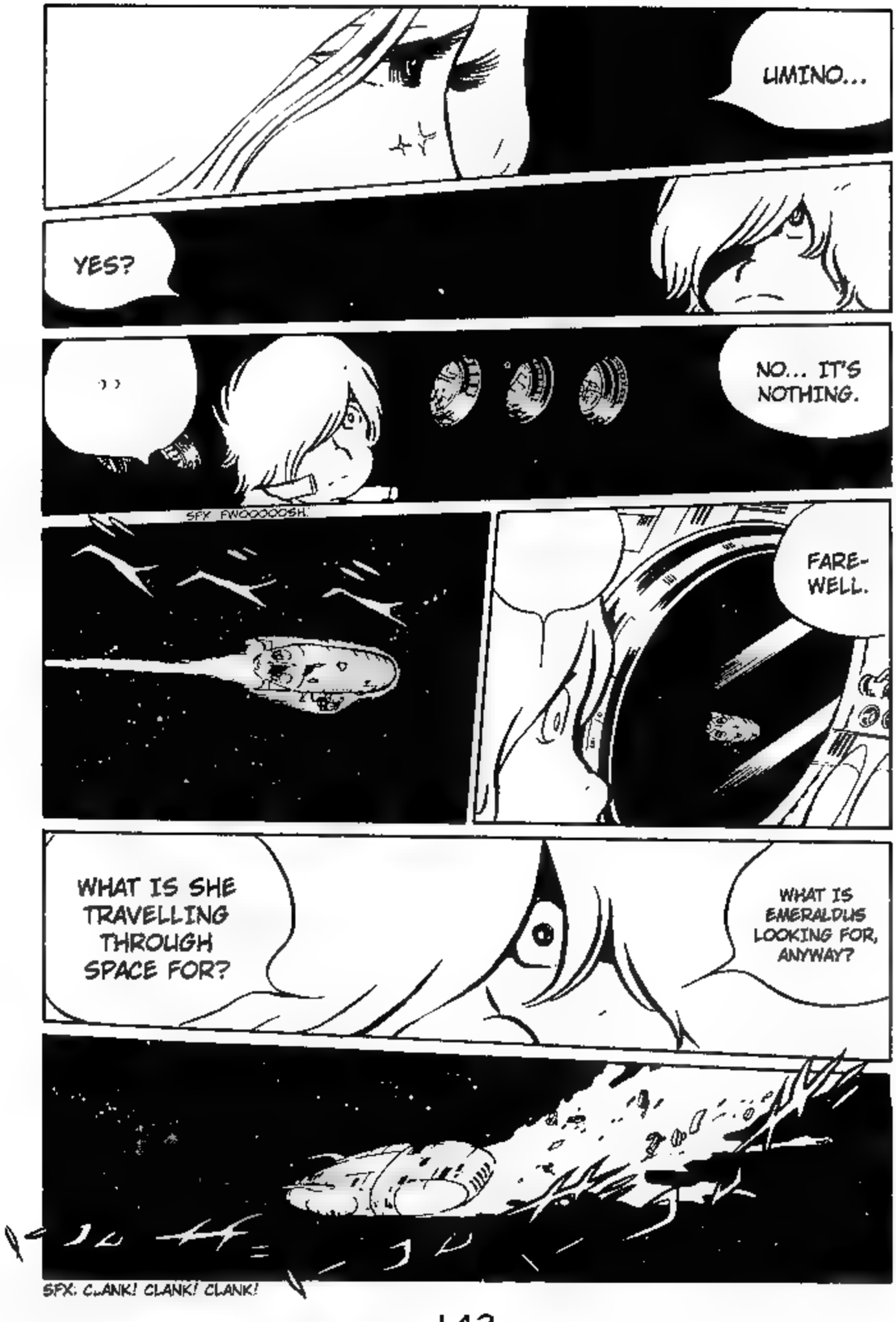

SFX: FWOOOOOOOSH!
THIS GENTLE SHIP IS THE ONLY THING I STILL BELIEVE IN...
THE FAINTLY-BREATHING QUEEN EMERALDUS ENVELOPS ME WITH ITS HEARTBEAT.

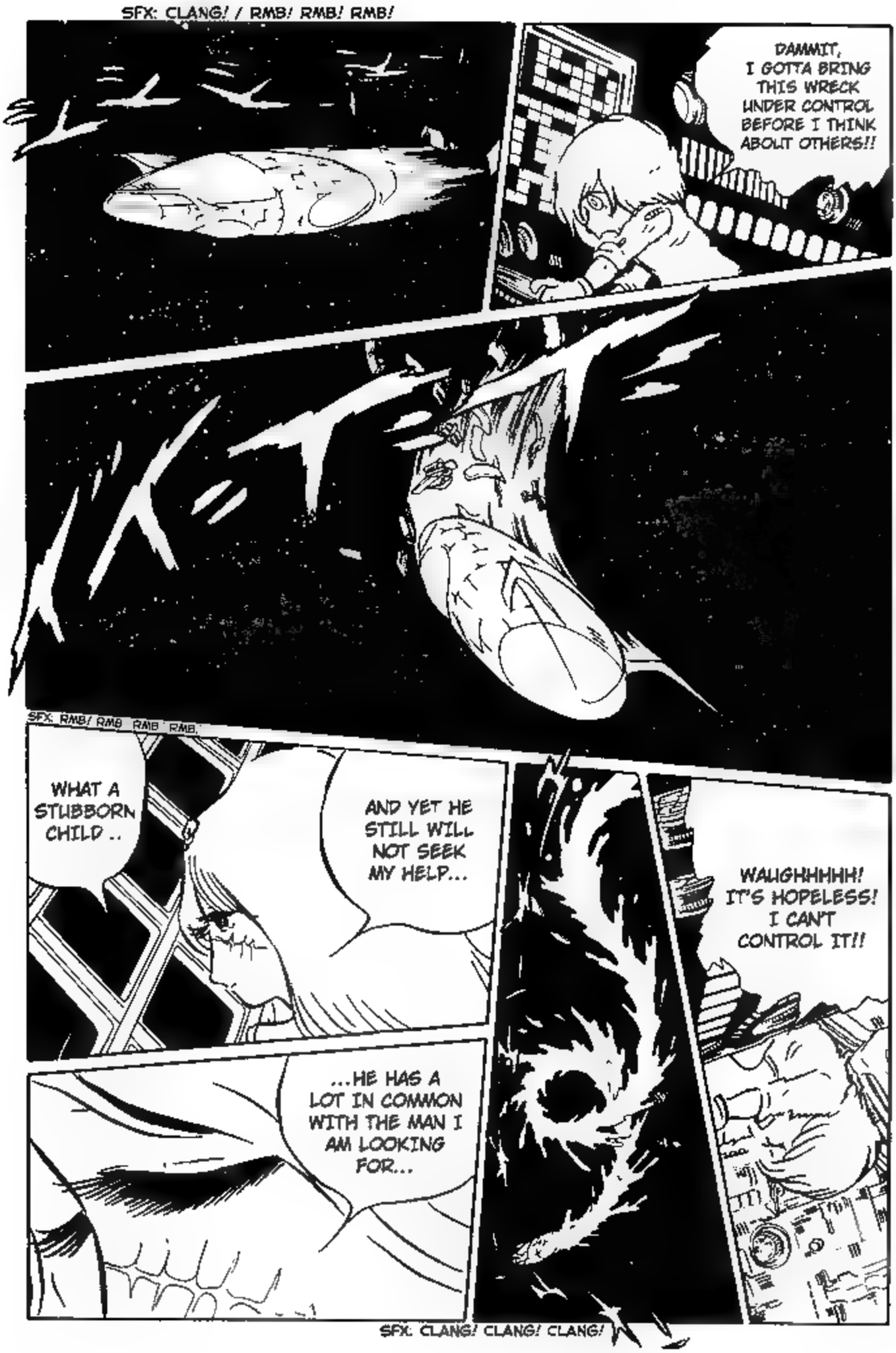

SFX: BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! BEEP!
SFX: WOOO! WOOO! WOOO!
WHEN THIS SHIP'S HEARTBEAT ENTERS ITS ETERNAL SLEEP, THE FLAME OF MY LIFE WILL GO OUT AS WELL...
"
OBJECT FOUND EMITTING ABNORMAL ENERGY...
THAT'S IT!!
SFX: FWOOOSH! / RUSTLE! / KA-BOOOOOM!

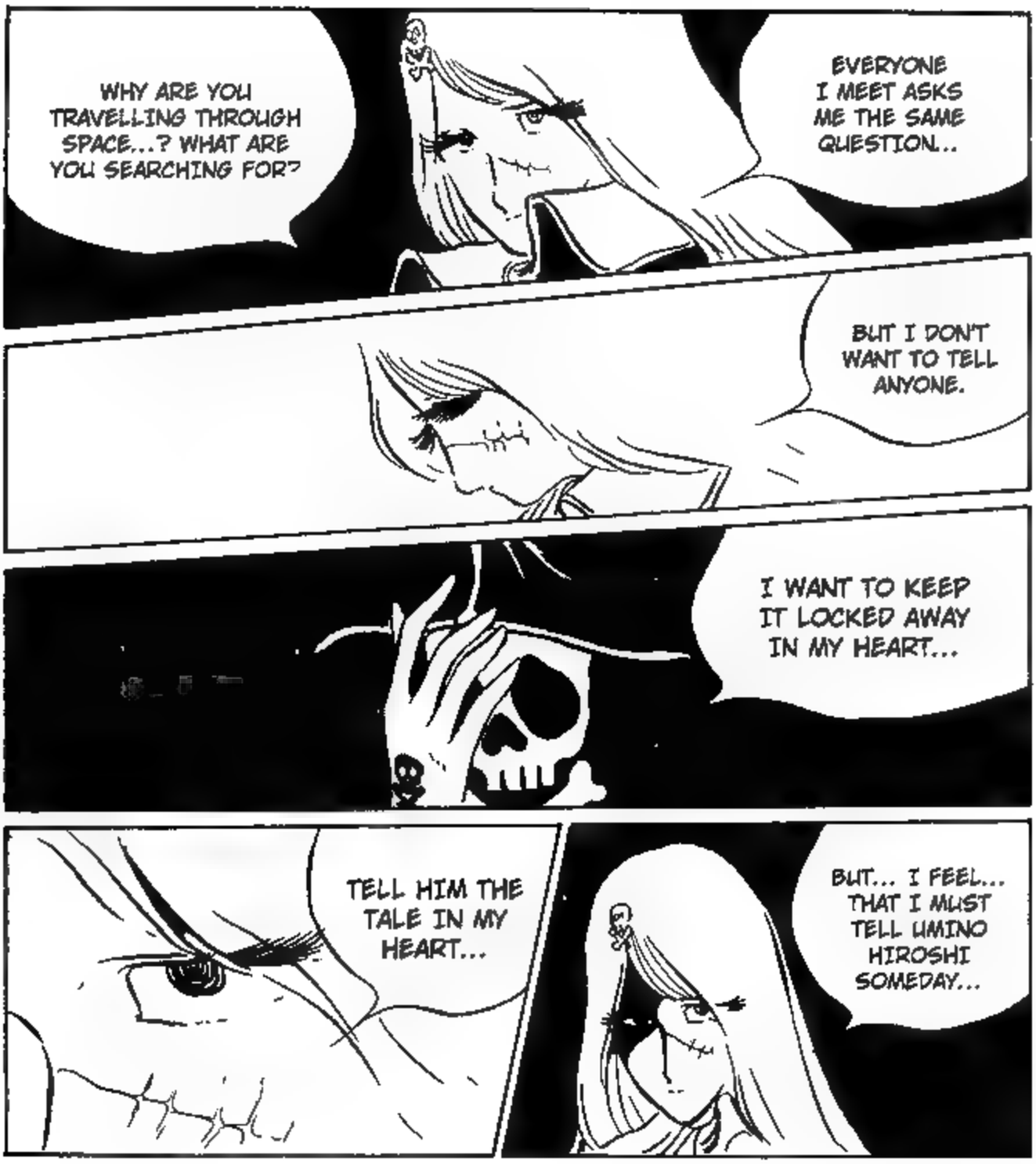

SFX: KA-BOOOOOM! / POP! / CRAAACK!
IT'S THAT MAN AGAIN...
SFX: BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM!

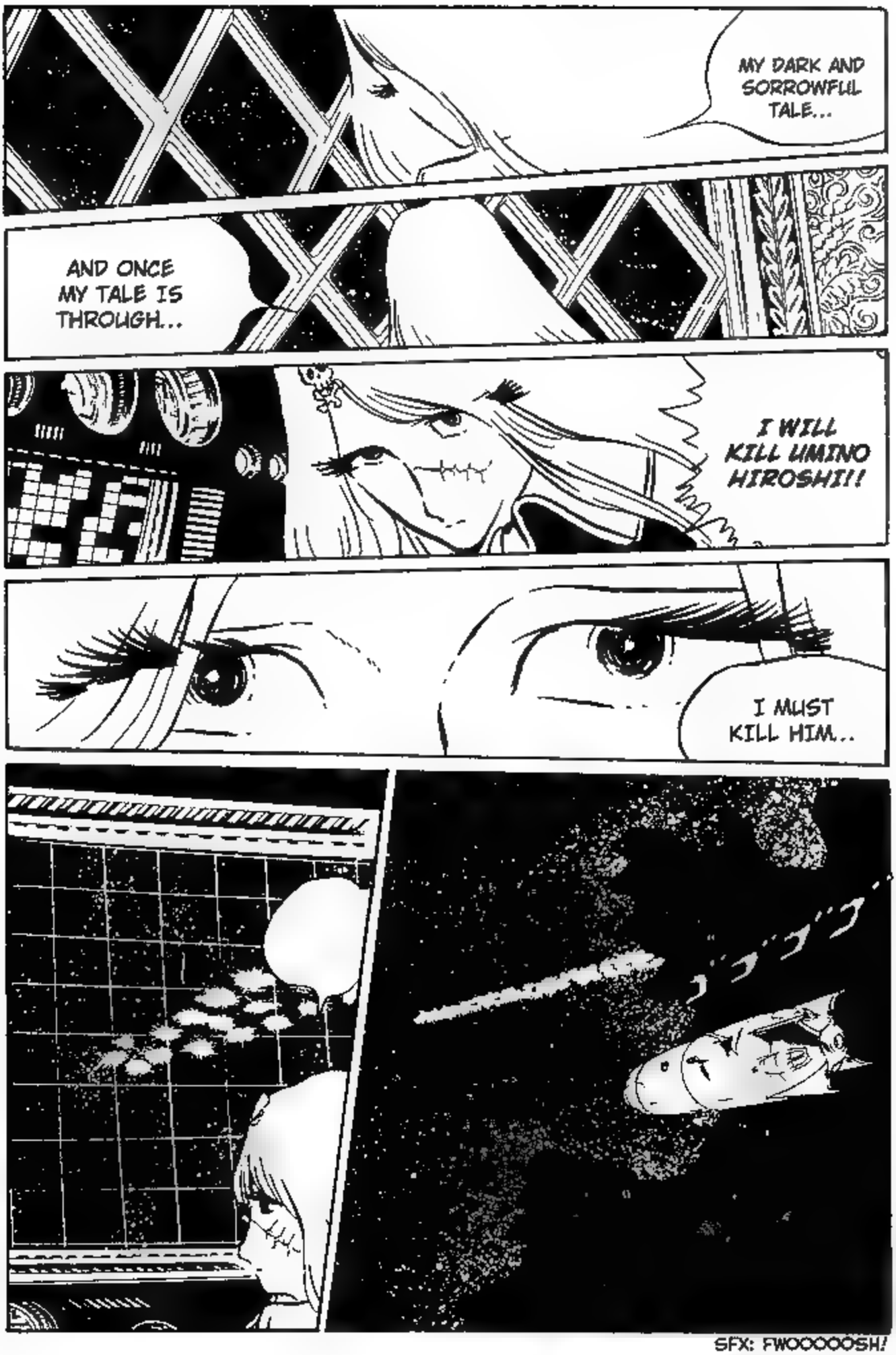

I'LL BREAK YOU, YOU SCRAP HEAP!
DAMMIT, WHY WON'T THIS SHIP LISTEN TO ME!?
SFX: RMB! RMB! RMB! RMB! RMB!
SHALL I LEND YOU A HAND?
OKAY, OKAY! I DON'T WANT YOU BROKEN! JUST HELP ME!
THE QUEEN EMERALDUS!!
NO, IT'S FINE! I CAN HANDLE IT ON MY OWN! JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!!
SFX: SWOOOOOSH!

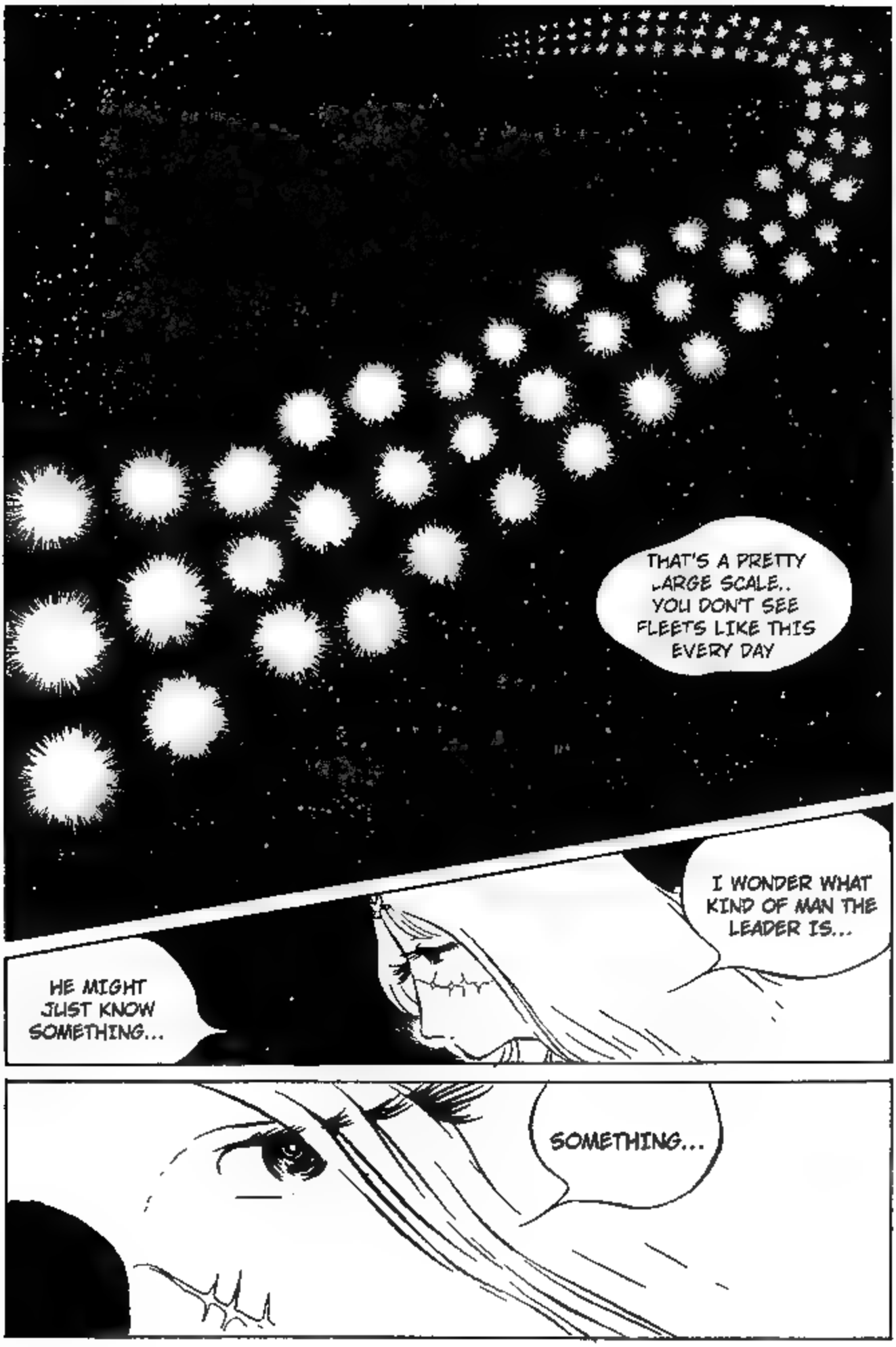

SFX: KA-BOOOOOM!
YOUR SHIP WOULD HAVE CRUMBLED TO PIECES AT THAT RATE. I SIMPLY STOPPED IT FROM HAPPENING.
WHAT DID YOU DO!?
NOW FIGURE OUT THE REST YOURSELF.
DID YOU SEE ANY OTHER SHIPS IN THE AREA?
I WOULD'VE, EVEN IF YOU TOLD ME NOT TO!!
THEIR LEADER WAS REALLY UNPLEASANT. HE DIDN'T EVEN GIVE ME WATER.
THEY WERE A HOLO-CARRIAGE FLEET. THEY SAID THEY WERE GOING TO CROLITEA.
A BIG FLEET?
YEAH! THERE WAS A BIG FLEET OVER ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DARK GAS BEHIND ME!

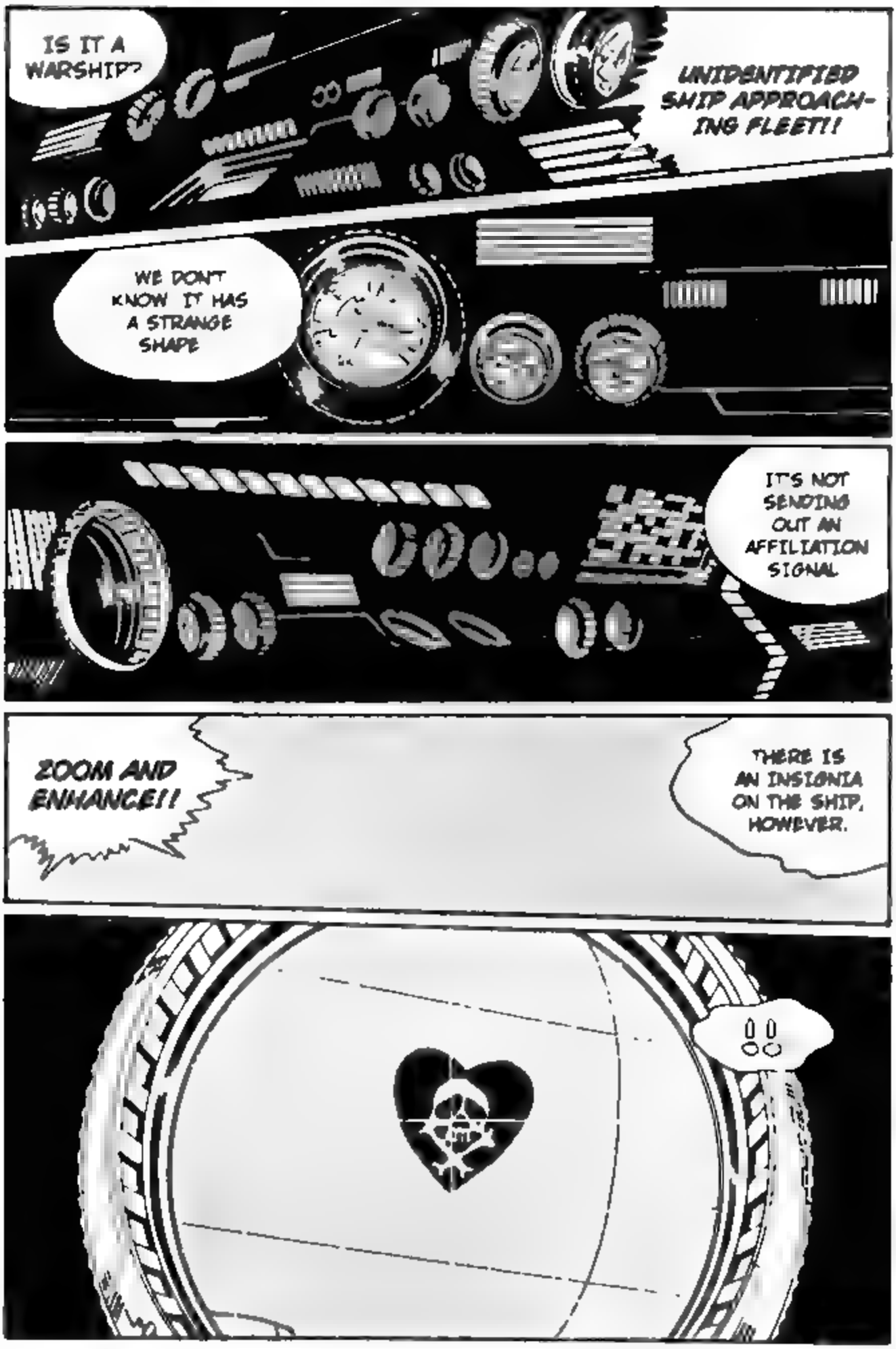

UMINO...
YES?
NO... IT'S NOTHING.
SFX: FWOOOOOSH.
FARE-WELL.
WHAT IS SHE TRAVELLING THROUGH SPACE FOR?
WHAT IS EMERALDUS LOOKING FOR, ANYWAY?
SFX: CLANK! CLANK! CLANK!

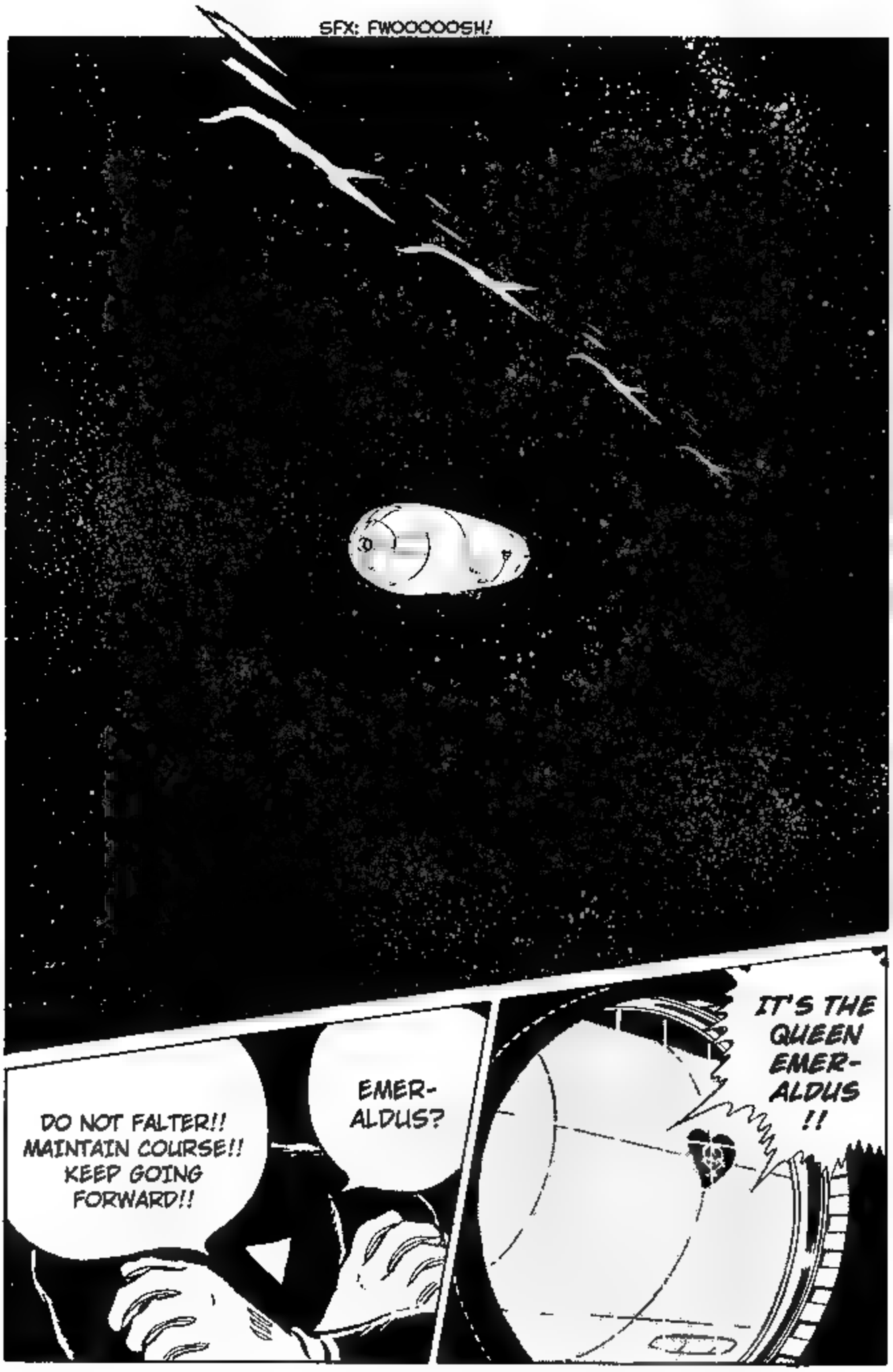

SFX: CLANG! / RMB! RMB! RMB!
DAMMIT, I GOTTA BRING THIS WRECK UNDER CONTROL BEFORE I THINK ABOUT OTHERS!!
SFX: RMB! RMB RMB RMB.
WHAT A STUBBORN CHILD ..
AND YET HE STILL WILL NOT SEEK MY HELP...
WAUGHHHHH! IT'S HOPELESS! I CAN'T CONTROL IT!!
...HE HAS A LOT IN COMMON WITH THE MAN I AM LOOKING FOR...
SFX: CLANG! CLANG! CLANG!


WHY ARE YOU TRAVELLING THROUGH SPACE...? WHAT ARE YOU SEARCHING FOR?
EVERYONE I MEET ASKS ME THE SAME QUESTION..
BUT I DON'T WANT TO TELL ANYONE.
I WANT TO KEEP IT LOCKED AWAY IN MY HEART...
TELL HIM THE TALE IN MY HEART...
BUT... I FEEL... THAT I MUST TELL UMINO HIROSHI SOMEDAY...

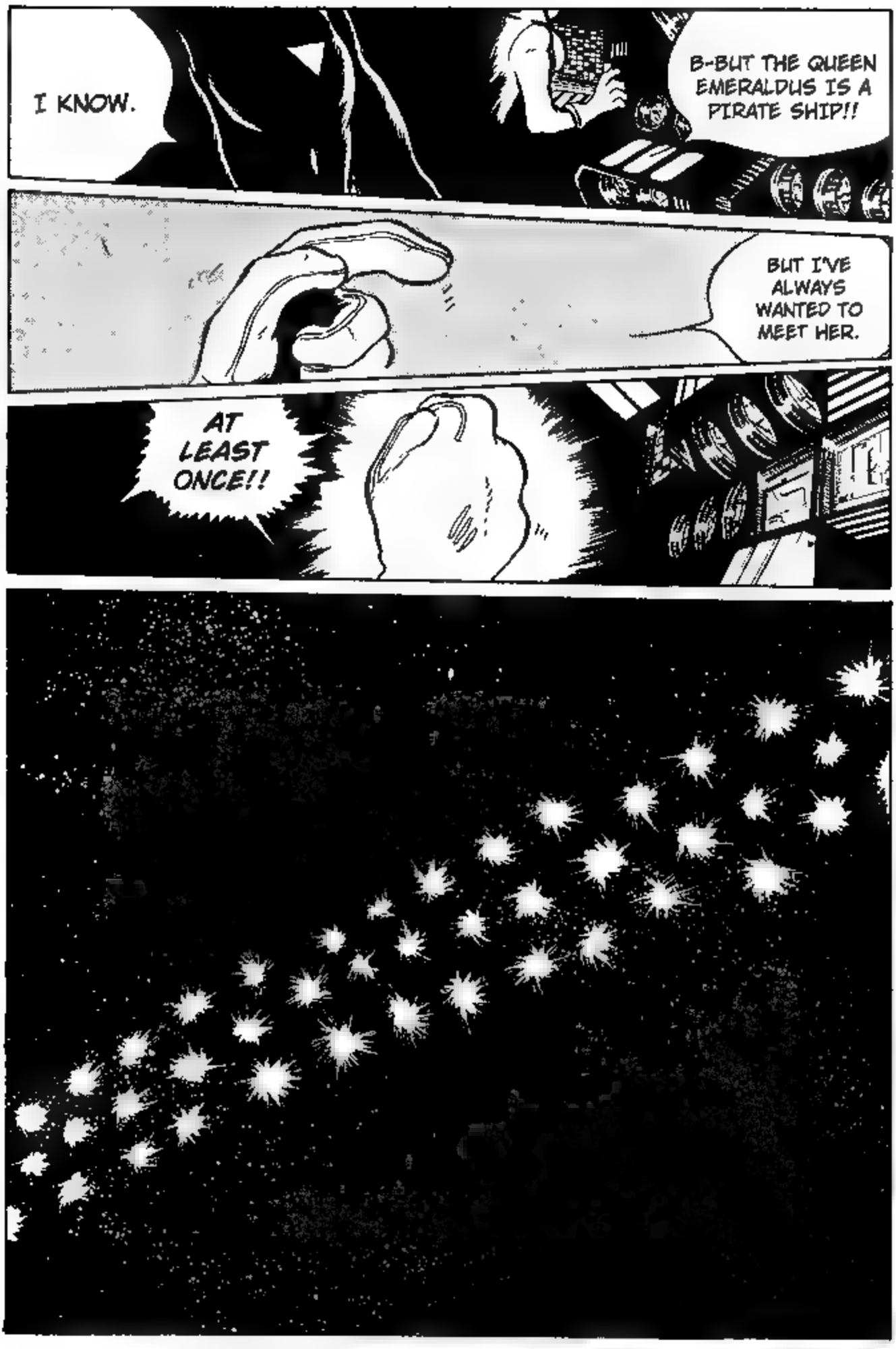

MY DARK AND SORROWFUL TALE...
AND ONCE MY TALE IS THROUGH...
I WILL KILL UMINO HIROSHI!!
I MUST KILL HIM...
SFX: FWOOOOOSH!

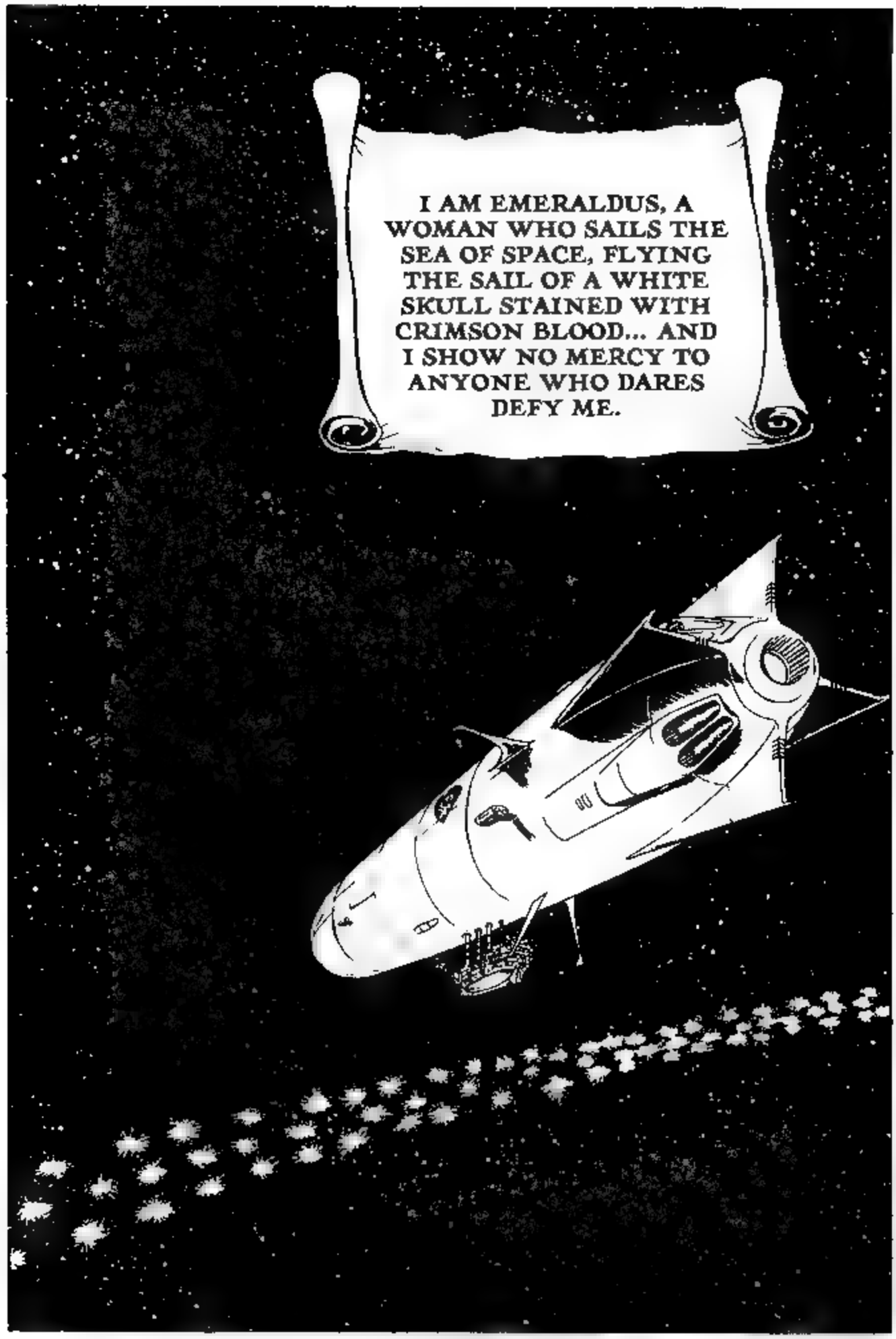

THAT'S A PRETTY LARGE SCALE.. YOU DON'T SEE FLEETS LIKE THIS EVERY DAY
I WONDER WHAT KIND OF MAN THE LEADER IS...
HE MIGHT JUST KNOW SOMETHING...
SOMETHING...

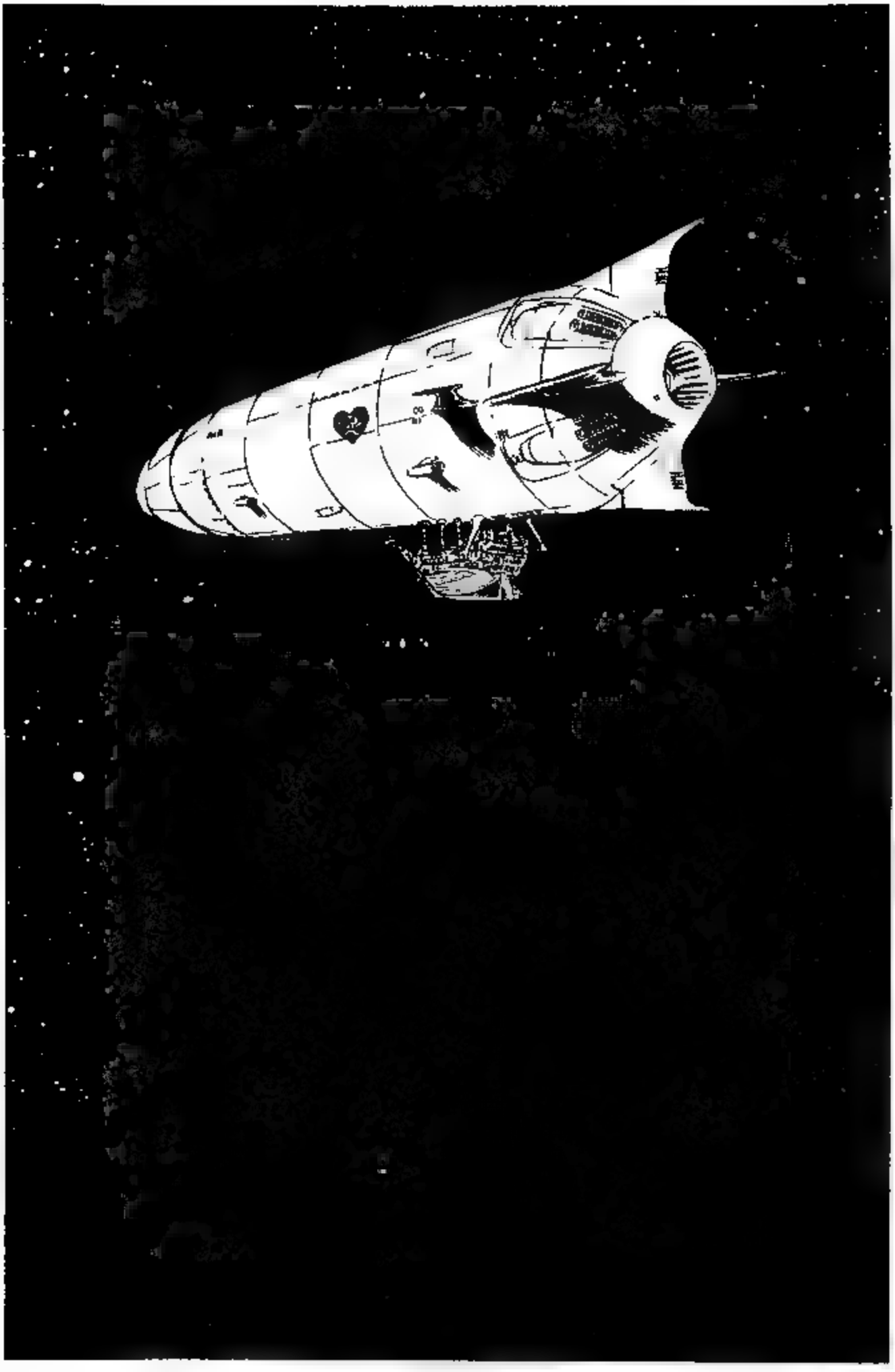

IS IT A WARSHIP?
UNIDENTIFIED SHIP APPROACHING FLEET!!
WE DON'T KNOW IT HAS A STRANGE SHAPE
IT'S NOT SENDING OUT AN AFFILIATION SIGNAL
ZOOM AND ENHANCE!!
THERE IS AN INSIGNIA ON THE SHIP, HOWEVER.


SFX: FWOOOOOSH!
DO NOT FALTER!! MAINTAIN COURSE!! KEEP GOING FORWARD!!
EMER-ALDUS?
IT'S THE QUEEN EMER-ALDUS!!

SFX: FWOOOOOOSH


I KNOW.
B-BUT THE QUEEN EMERALDUS IS A PIRATE SHIP!!
BUT I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO MEET HER.
AT LEAST ONCE!!


I AM EMERALDUS, A WOMAN WHO SAILS THE SEA OF SPACE, FLYING THE SAIL OF A WHITE SKULL STAINED WITH CRIMSON BLOOD... AND I SHOW NO MERCY TO ANYONE WHO DARES DEFY ME.

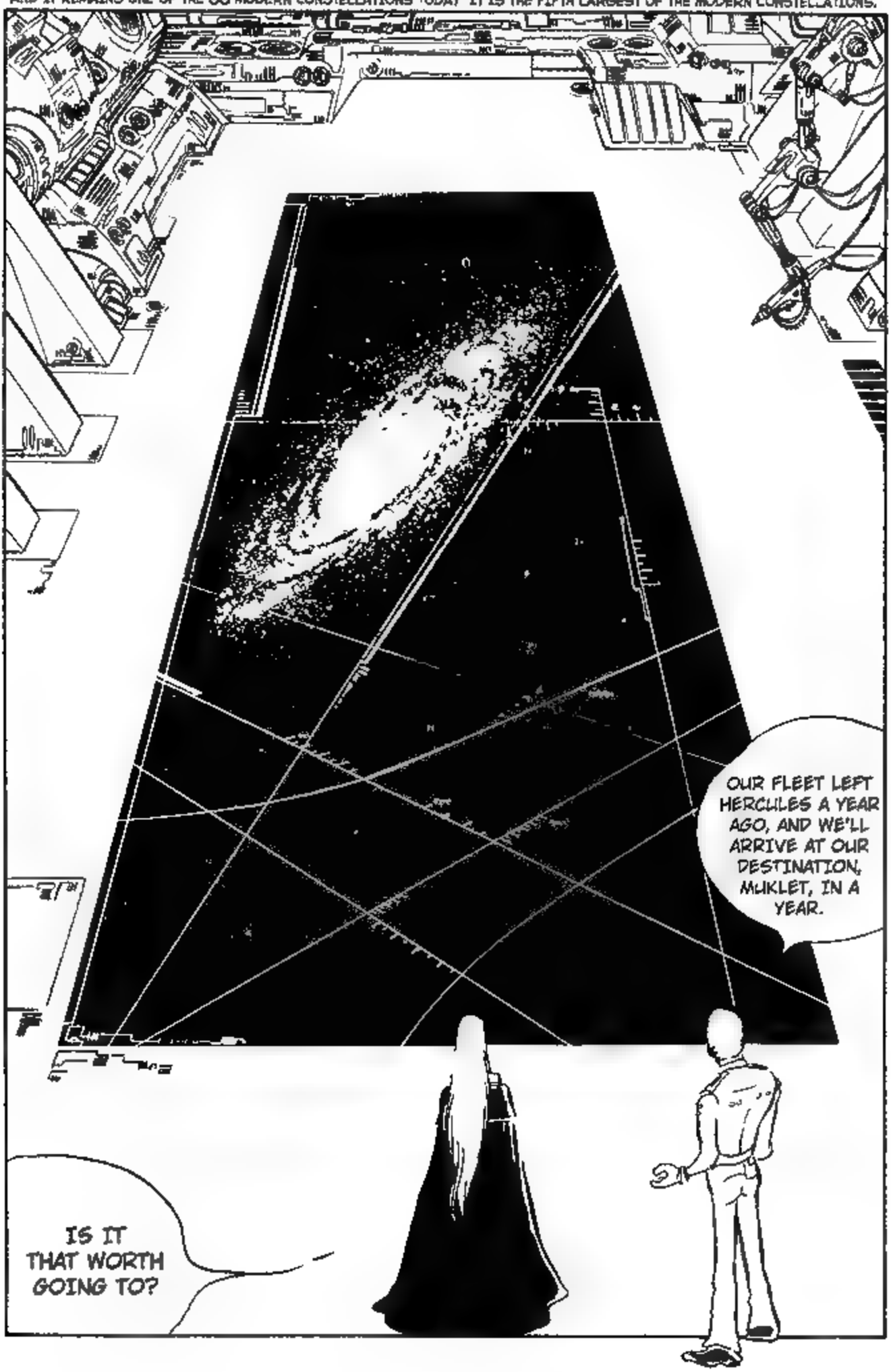


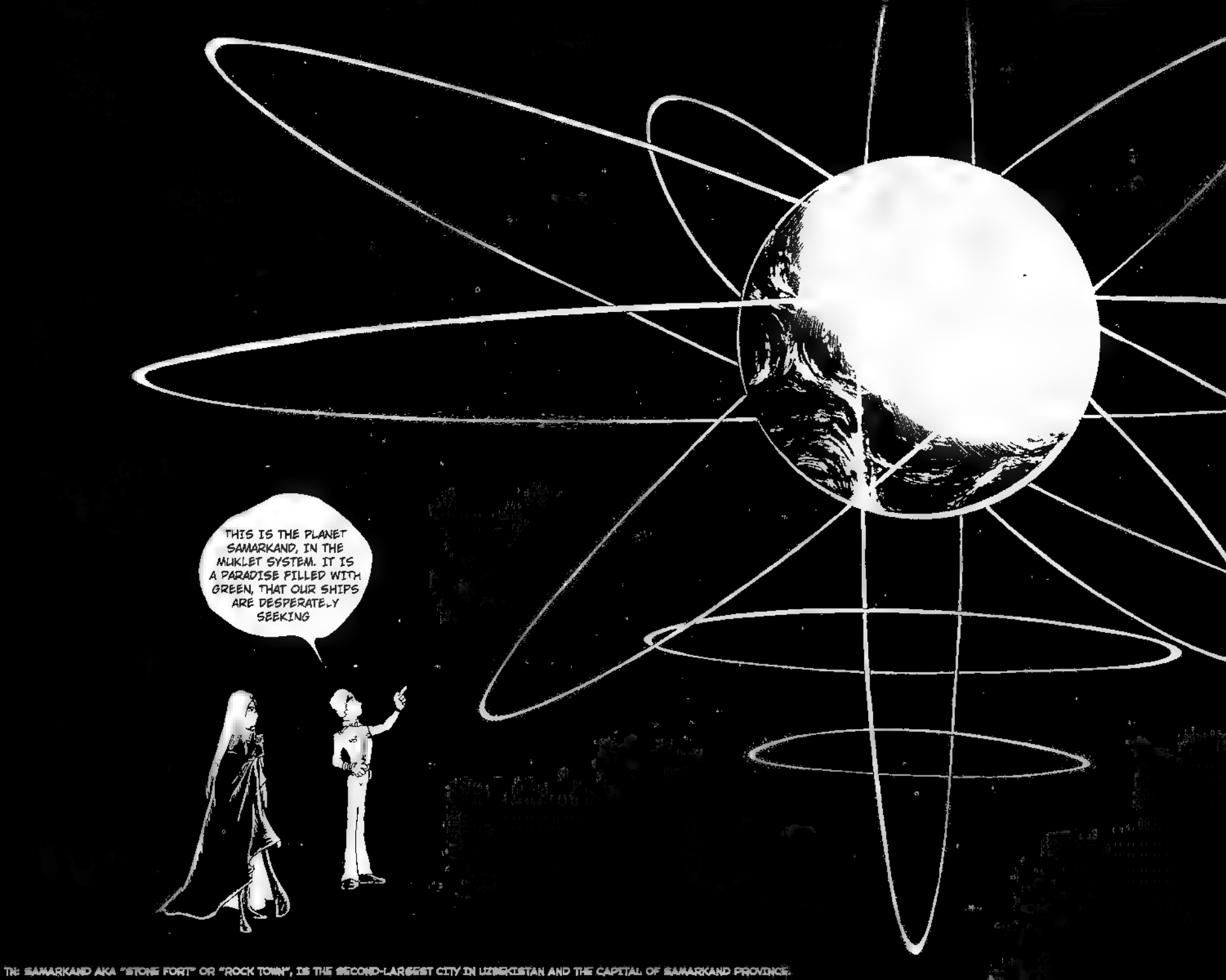
SFX: FWOOOOOSH!
THERE ARE MANY MEN WHO TRAVEL SPACE AT THE RISK OF THEIR OWN FUTURE. THEY PURSUE THEIR OWN AMBITIONS AND HOPES AND SELFISH DREAMS...

THE FLEET I ENCOUNTERED WAS AN EXTRAORDINARILY LARGE-SCALE ONE...
RMB RMB RMB RMB RMB RMB

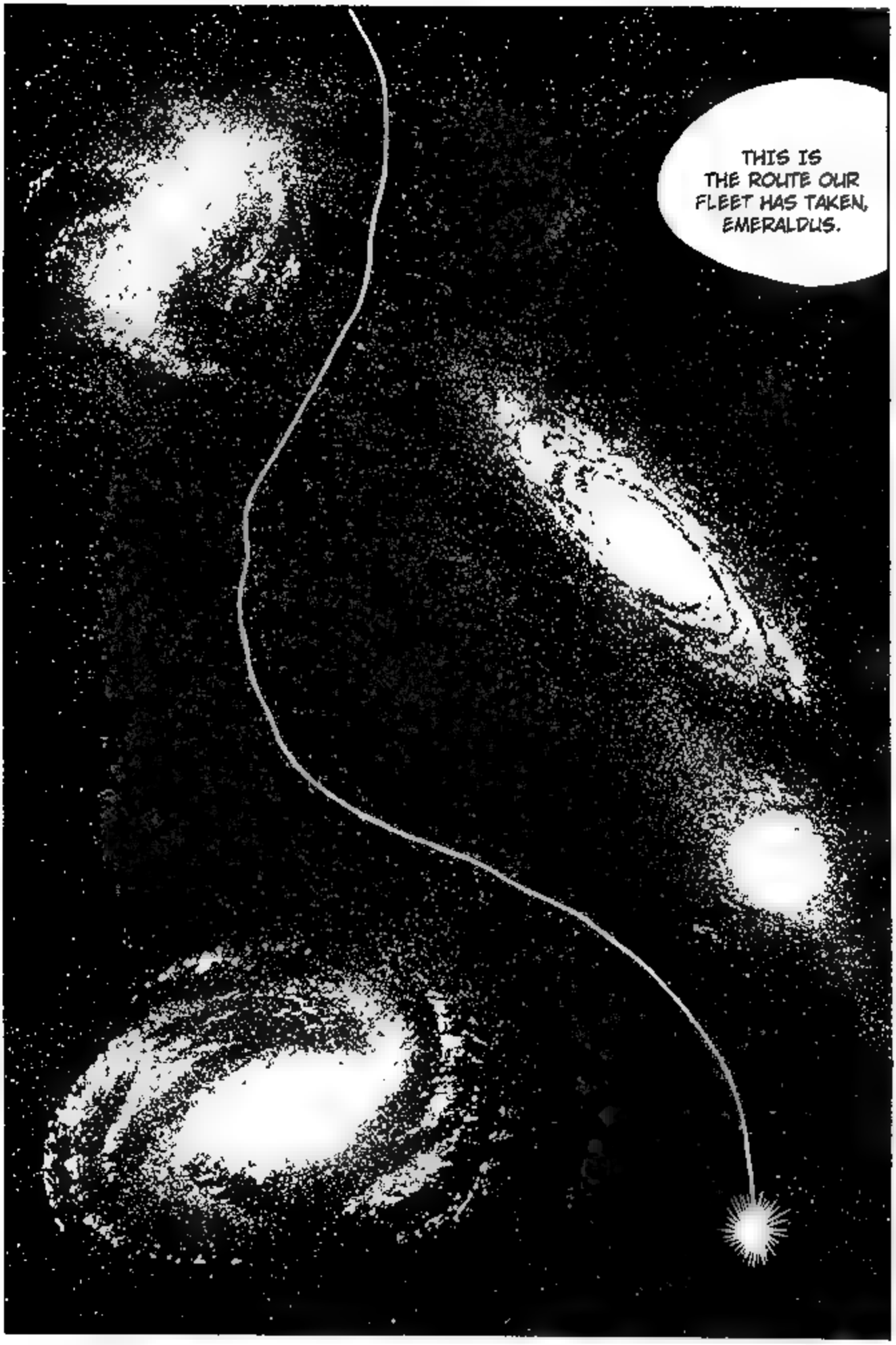
WELCOME, EMERALDUS. THIS IS CASSIOPEIAN WINE.
IT IS AN HONOR THAT YOU HAVE VISITED MY FLEET TO SEE ME.
I HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO MEET YOU.
AND THERE AREN'T MANY MEN THAT HAVE THE HONOR OF BEING PAID A VISIT BY ONE SO FAMOUS AS YOU!!
WHAT COLONY IS THIS FLEET FROM, AND WHERE IS IT HEADED...? AND WHAT IS YOUR NAME?
MAJOR JOHN F. DARKBACK, AT YOUR SERVICE. I'VE HAD SEVEN YEARS OF SAILING EXPERIENCE, AND I'VE PARTICIPATED IN TWELVE BATTLES.
THAT IS AN ADMIRABLE RECORD, MAJOR DARKBACK. NOW WHAT IS YOUR DESTINATION?

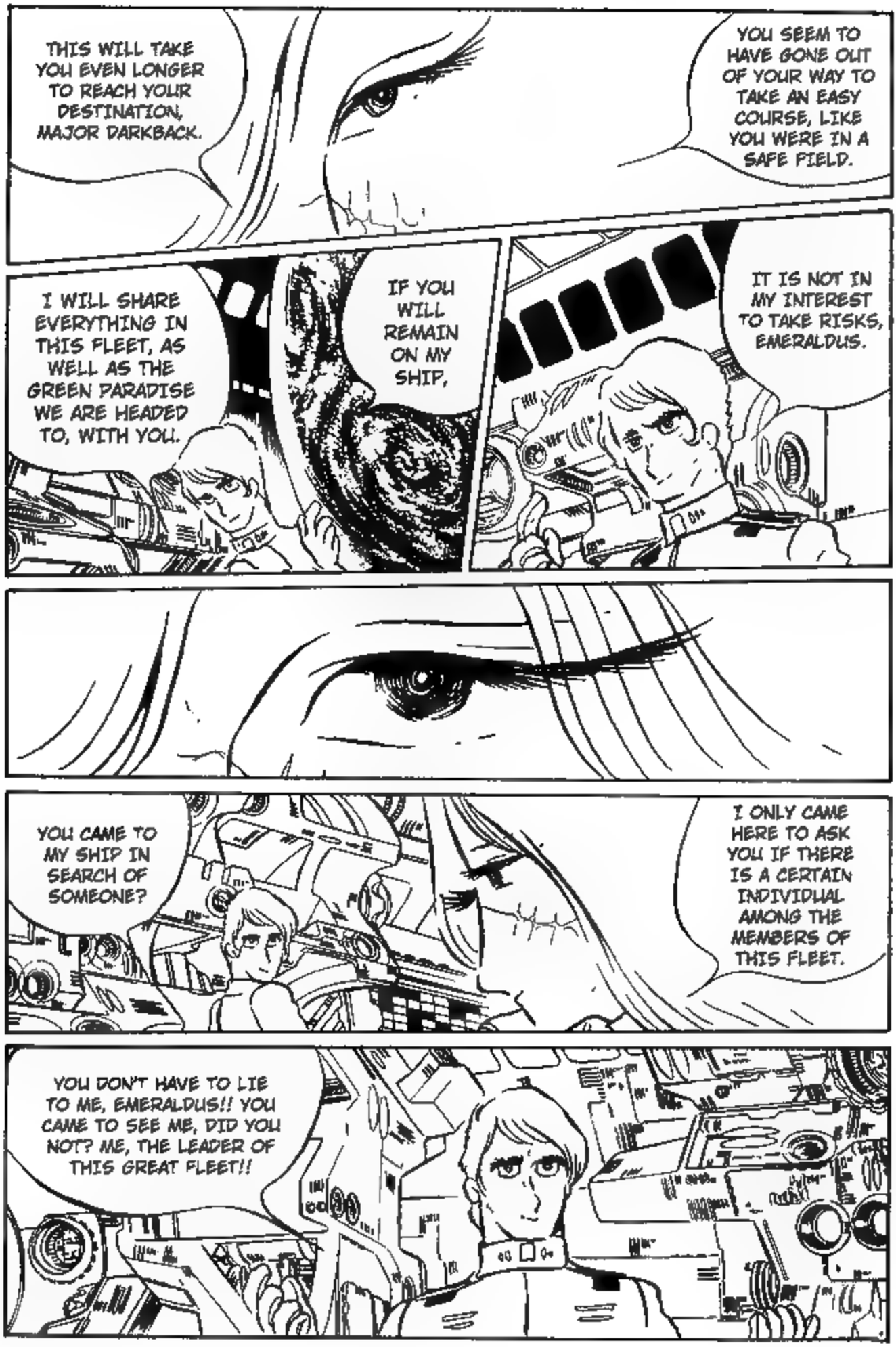
TN: HERCULES IS A CONSTELLATION NAMED AFTER HERCULES, THE ROMAN MYTHOLOGICAL HERO ADAPTED FROM THE GREEK HERO HERACLES. HERCULES WAS ONE OF THE 48 CONSTELLATIONS LISTED BY THE SECOND CENTURY ASTRONOMER PTOLEMY, AND IT REMAINS ONE OF THE 88 MODERN CONSTELLATIONS TODAY. IT IS THE FIFTH LARGEST OF THE MODERN CONSTELLATIONS.

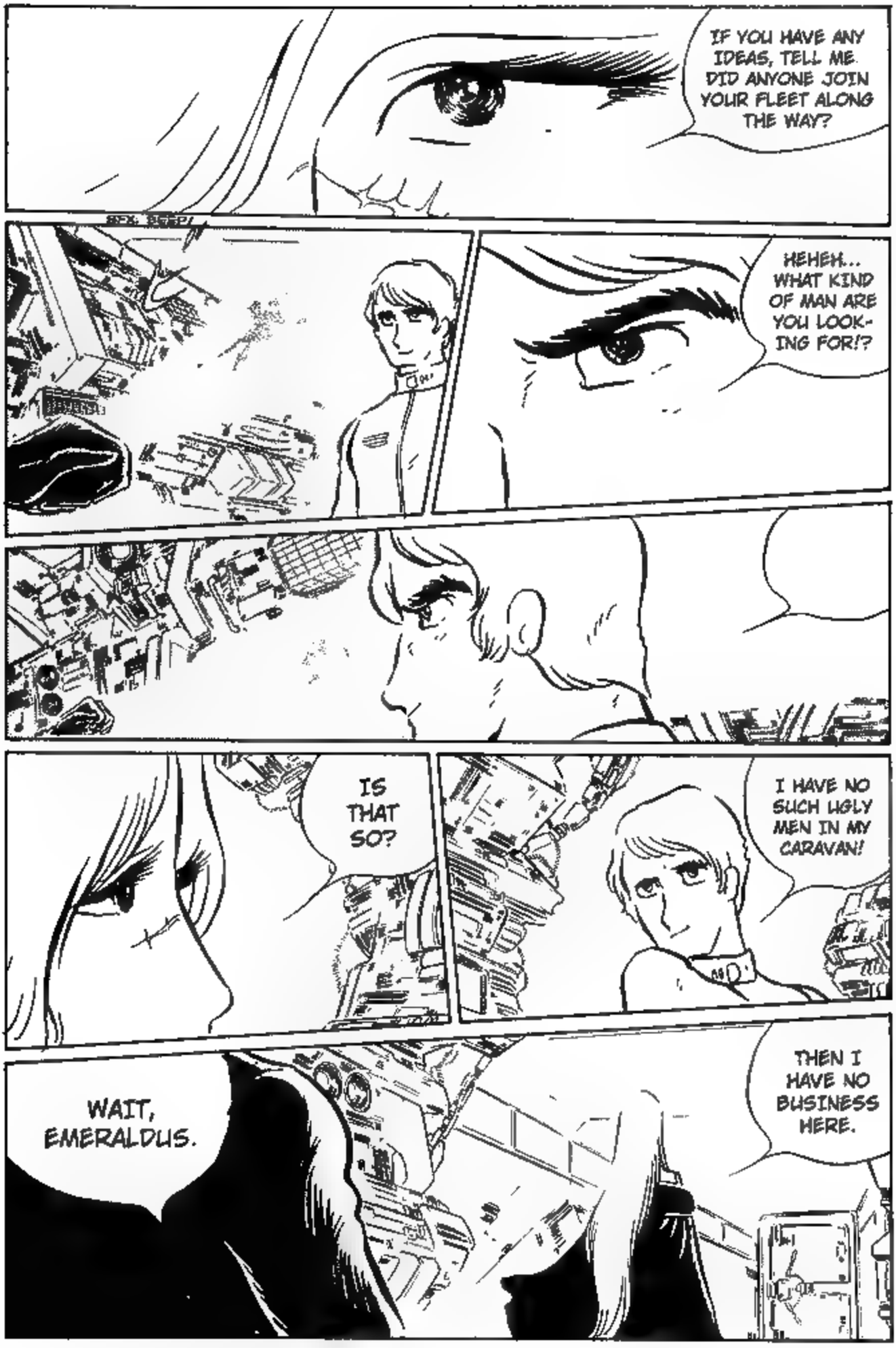


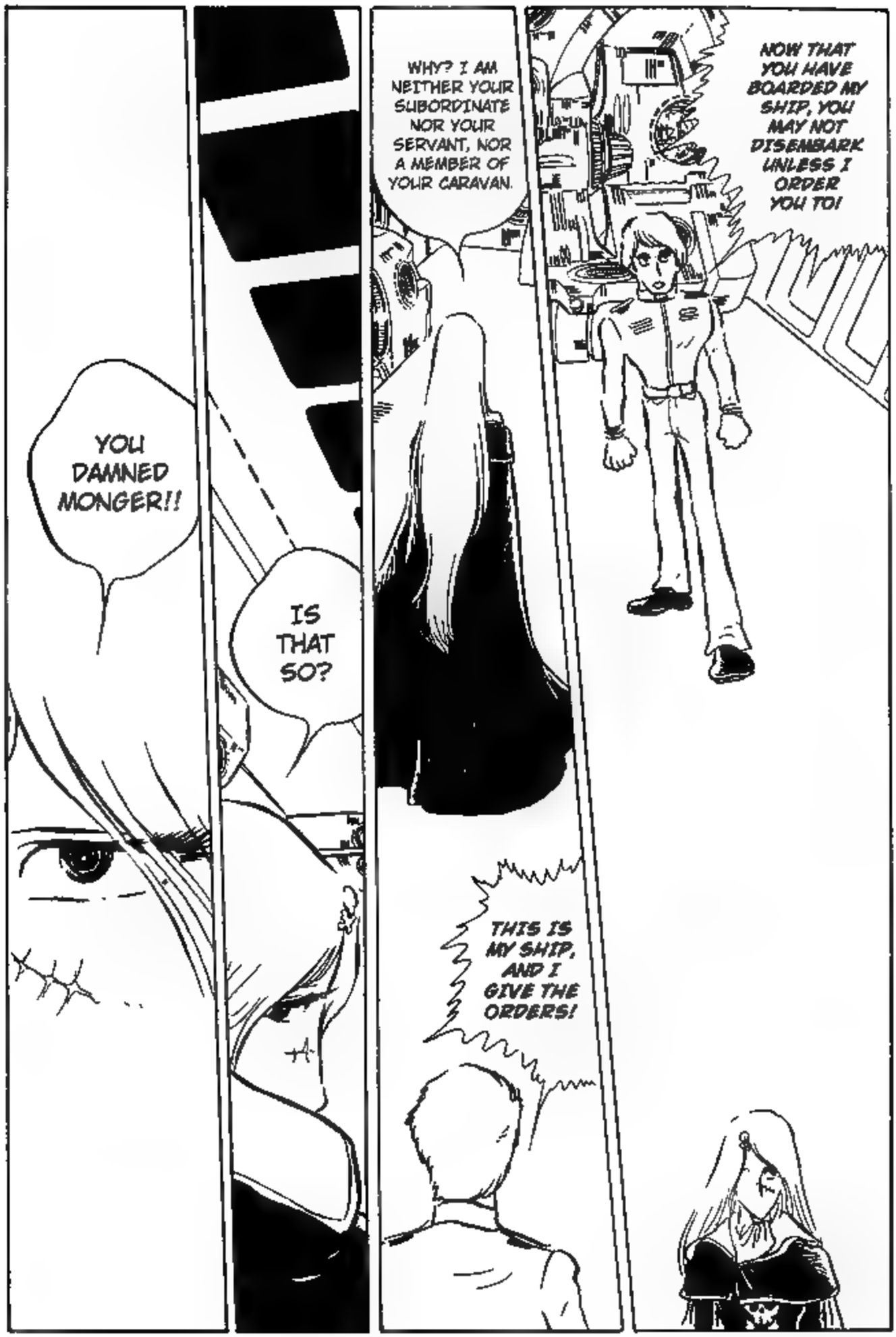

THIS IS THE PLANET SAMARKAND, IN THE MUKLET SYSTEM. IT IS A PARADISE FILLED WITH GREEN, THAT OUR SHIPS ARE DESPERATELY SEEKING

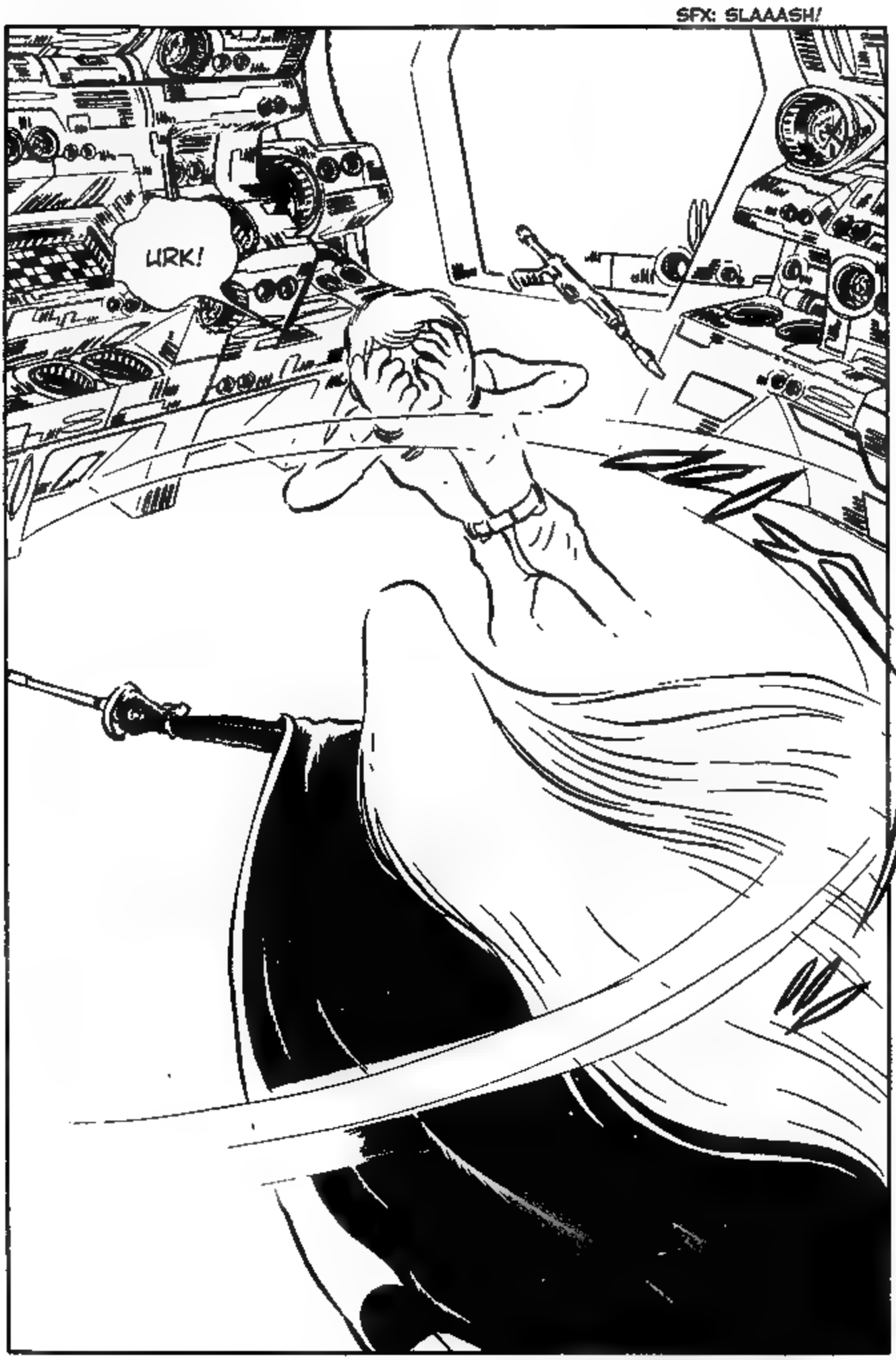
TN: SAMARKAND AKA "STONE FORT" OR "ROCK TOWN", IS THE SECOND-LARGEST CITY IN UZBEKISTAN AND THE CAPITAL OF SAMARKAND PROVINCE.

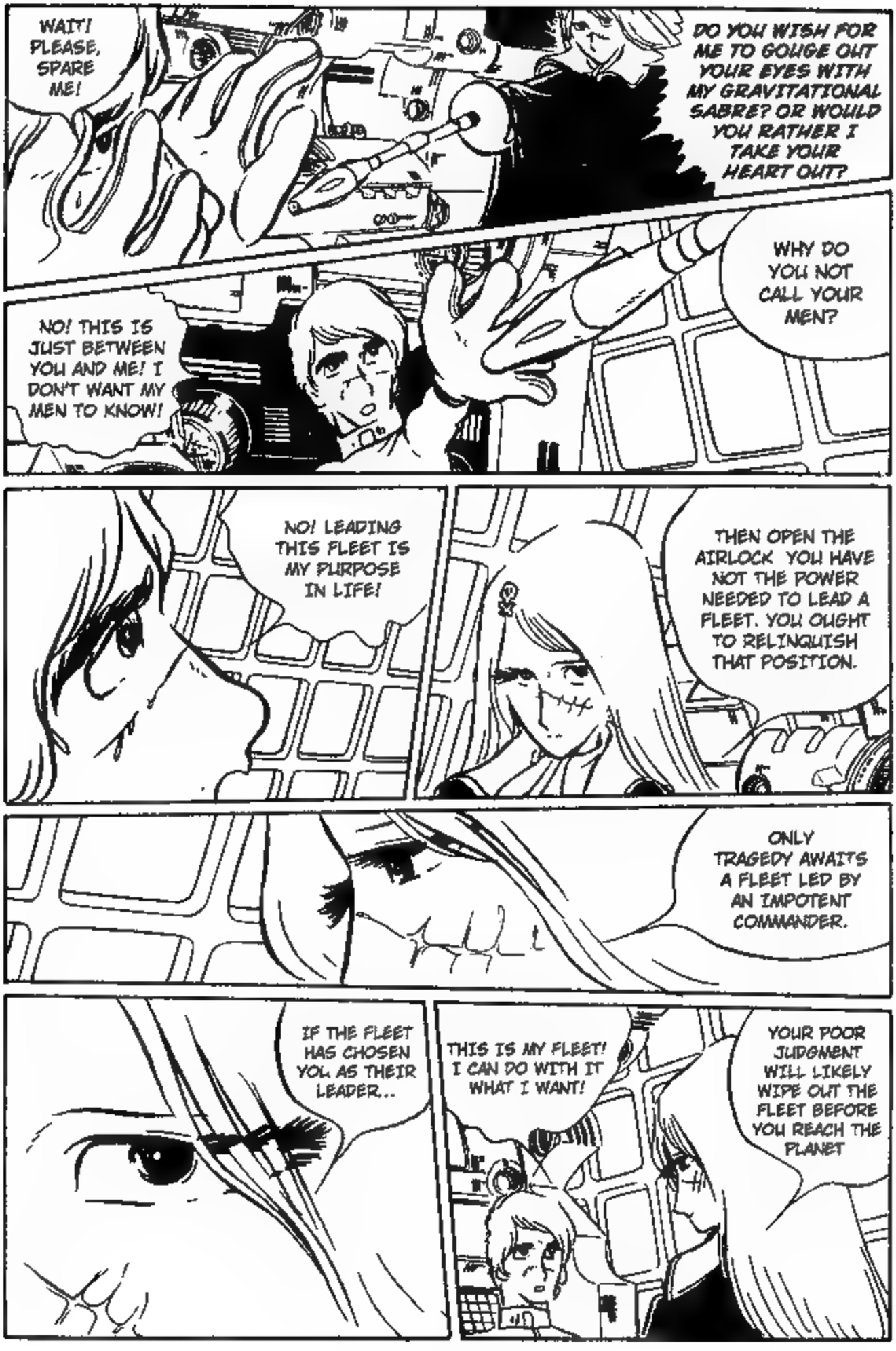

THIS IS THE ROUTE OUR FLEET HAS TAKEN, EMERALDUS.


THIS WILL TAKE YOU EVEN LONGER TO REACH YOUR DESTINATION, MAJOR DARKBACK.
YOU SEEM TO HAVE GONE OUT OF YOUR WAY TO TAKE AN EASY COURSE, LIKE YOU WERE IN A SAFE FIELD.
I WILL SHARE EVERYTHING IN THIS FLEET, AS WELL AS THE GREEN PARADISE WE ARE HEADED TO, WITH YOU.
IF YOU WILL REMAIN ON MY SHIP,
IT IS NOT IN MY INTEREST TO TAKE RISKS, EMERALDUS.
YOU CAME TO MY SHIP IN SEARCH OF SOMEONE?
I ONLY CAME HERE TO ASK YOU IF THERE IS A CERTAIN INDIVIDUAL AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THIS FLEET.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO LIE TO ME, EMERALDUS!! YOU CAME TO SEE ME, DID YOU NOT? ME, THE LEADER OF THIS GREAT FLEET!!


IF YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS, TELL ME. DID ANYONE JOIN YOUR FLEET ALONG THE WAY?
HEHEH... WHAT KIND OF MAN ARE YOU LOOKING FOR!?
IS THAT SO?
I HAVE NO SUCH UGLY MEN IN MY CARAVAN!
WAIT, EMERALDUS.
THEN I HAVE NO BUSINESS HERE.

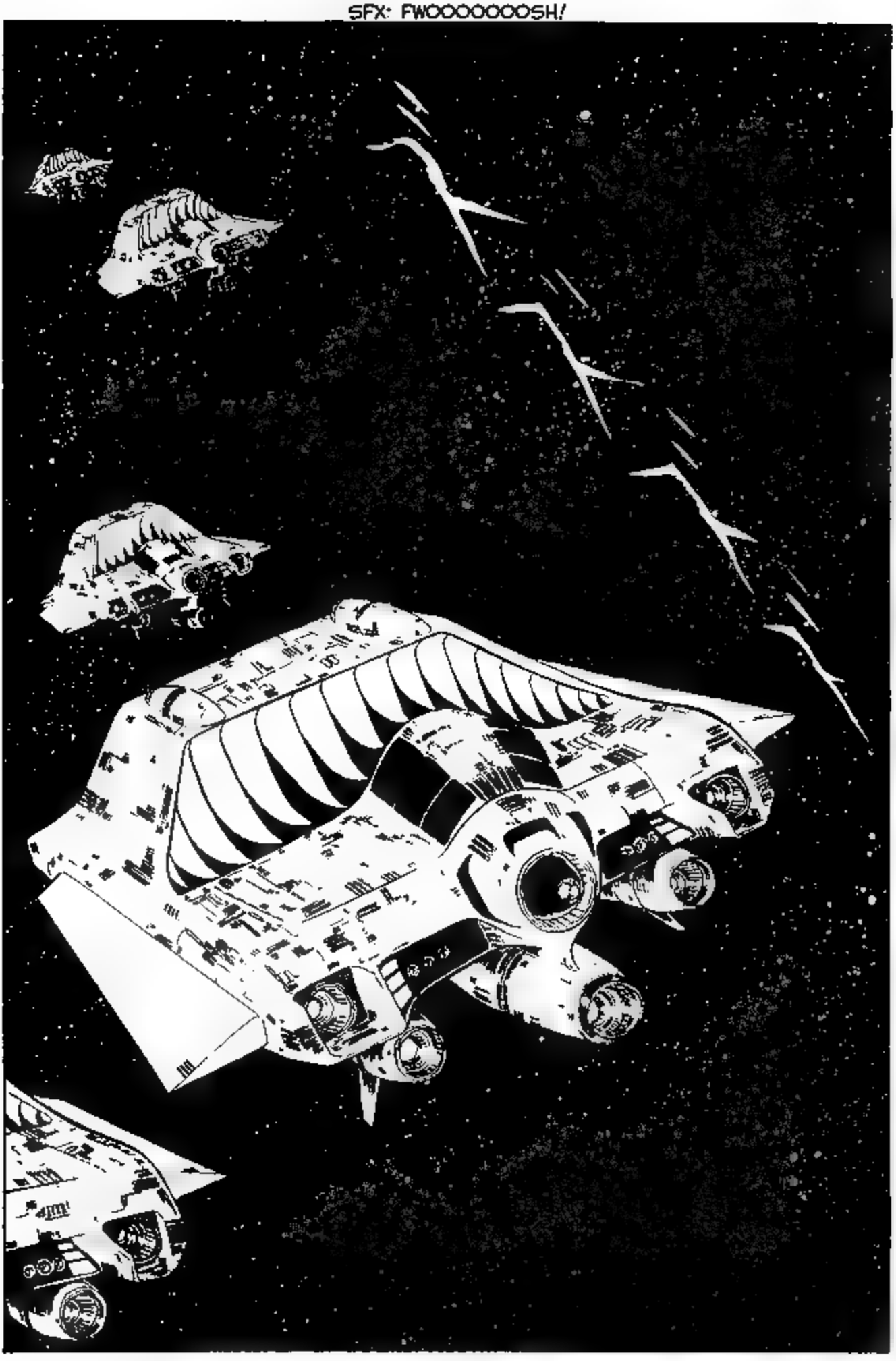

NOW THAT YOU HAVE BOARDED MY SHIP, YOU MAY NOT DISEMBARK UNLESS I ORDER YOU TO!
WHY? I AM NEITHER YOUR SUBORDINATE NOR YOUR SERVANT, NOR A MEMBER OF YOUR CARAVAN.
THIS IS MY SHIP, AND I GIVE THE ORDERS!
IS THAT SO?
YOU DAMNED MONGER!!

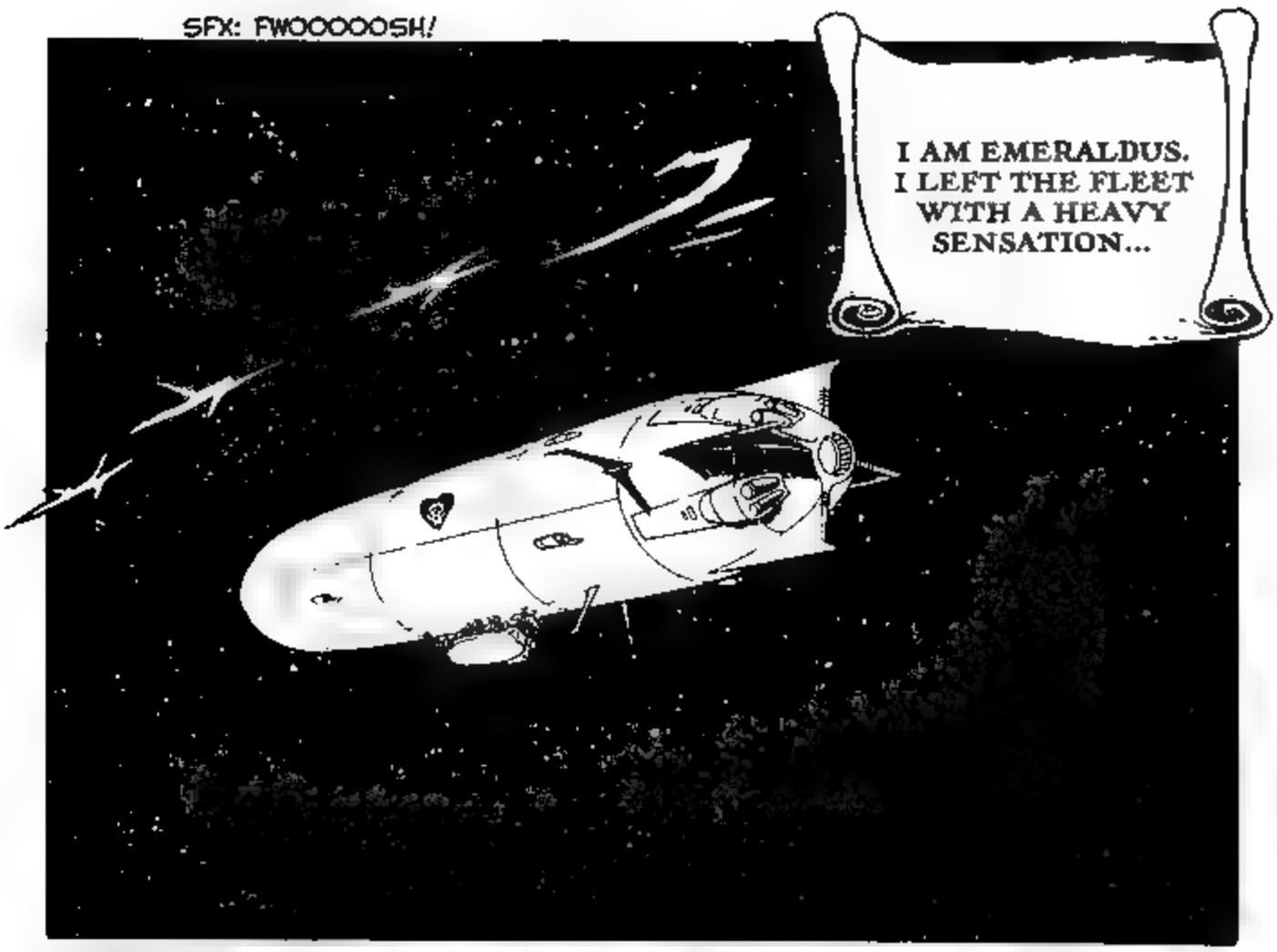

SFX: SLAAASH!
URK!


WAIT! PLEASE, SPARE ME!
DO YOU WISH FOR ME TO GOUGE OUT YOUR EYES WITH MY GRAVITATIONAL SABRE? OR WOULD YOU RATHER I TAKE YOUR HEART OUT?
WHY DO YOU NOT CALL YOUR MEN?
NO! THIS IS JUST BETWEEN YOU AND ME! I DON'T WANT MY MEN TO KNOW!
NO! LEADING THIS FLEET IS MY PURPOSE IN LIFE!
THEN OPEN THE AIRLOCK YOU HAVE NOT THE POWER NEEDED TO LEAD A FLEET. YOU OUGHT TO RELINQUISH THAT POSITION.
ONLY TRAGEDY AWAITS A FLEET LED BY AN IMPOTENT COMMANDER.
IF THE FLEET HAS CHOSEN YOU AS THEIR LEADER...
THIS IS MY FLEET! I CAN DO WITH IT WHAT I WANT!
YOUR POOR JUDGMENT WILL LIKELY WIPE OUT THE FLEET BEFORE YOU REACH THE PLANET

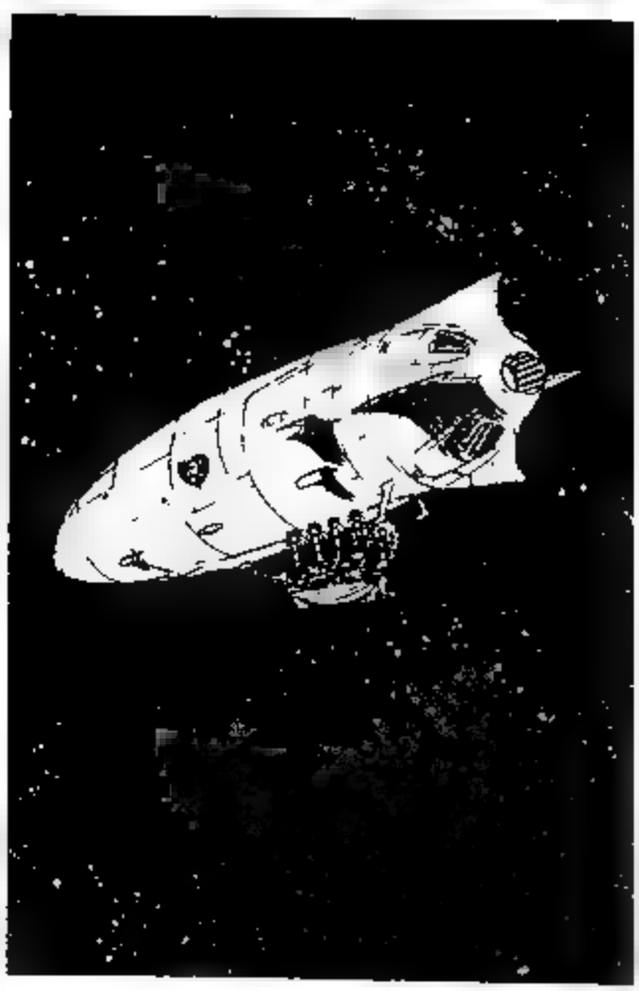
THIS PARADISE IS MINE! I AM GOING TO SUBJUGATE THIS PARADISE AND BE HAILED AS A HERO OF THE FLEET!

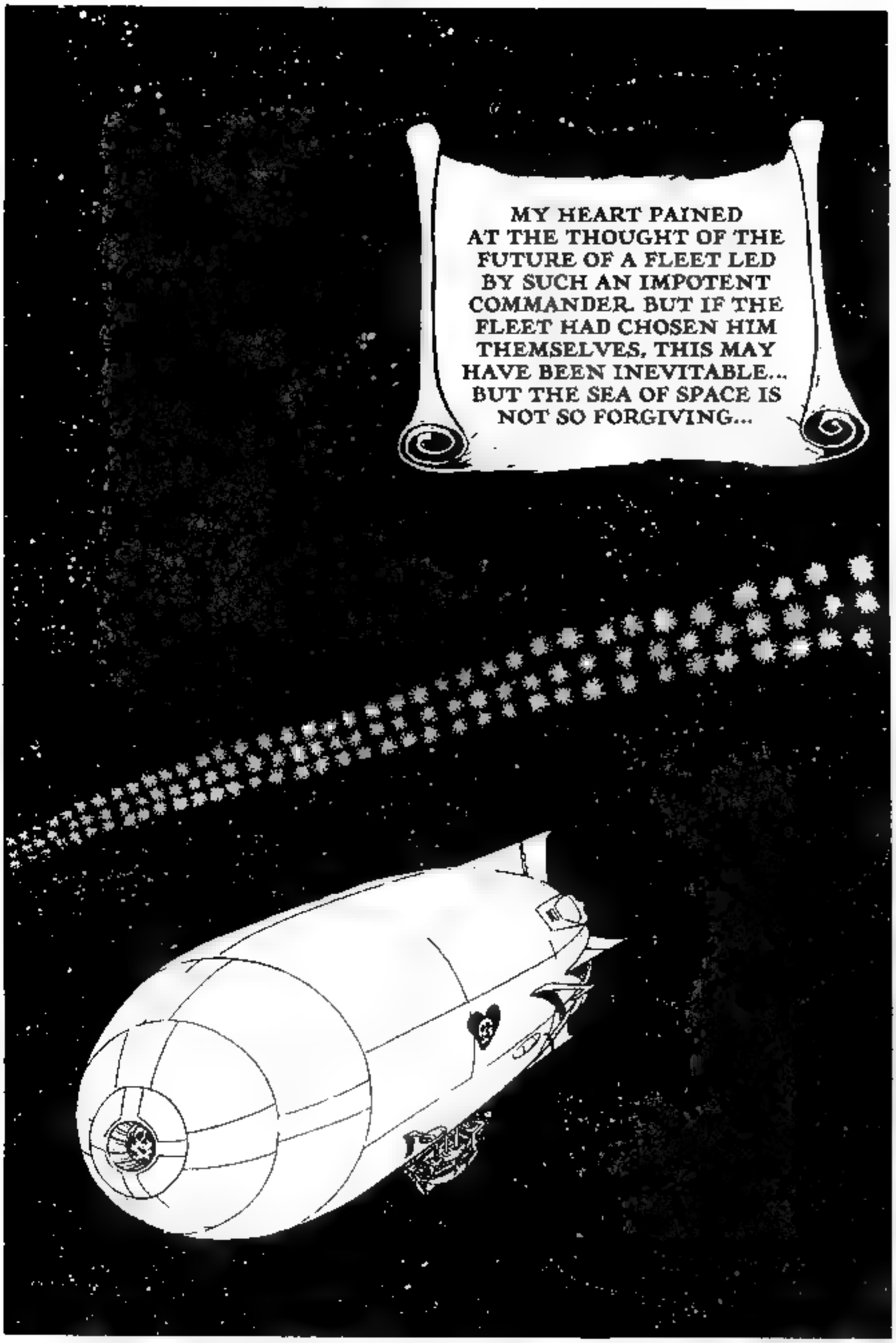
SFX: FWOOOOOOOSH!

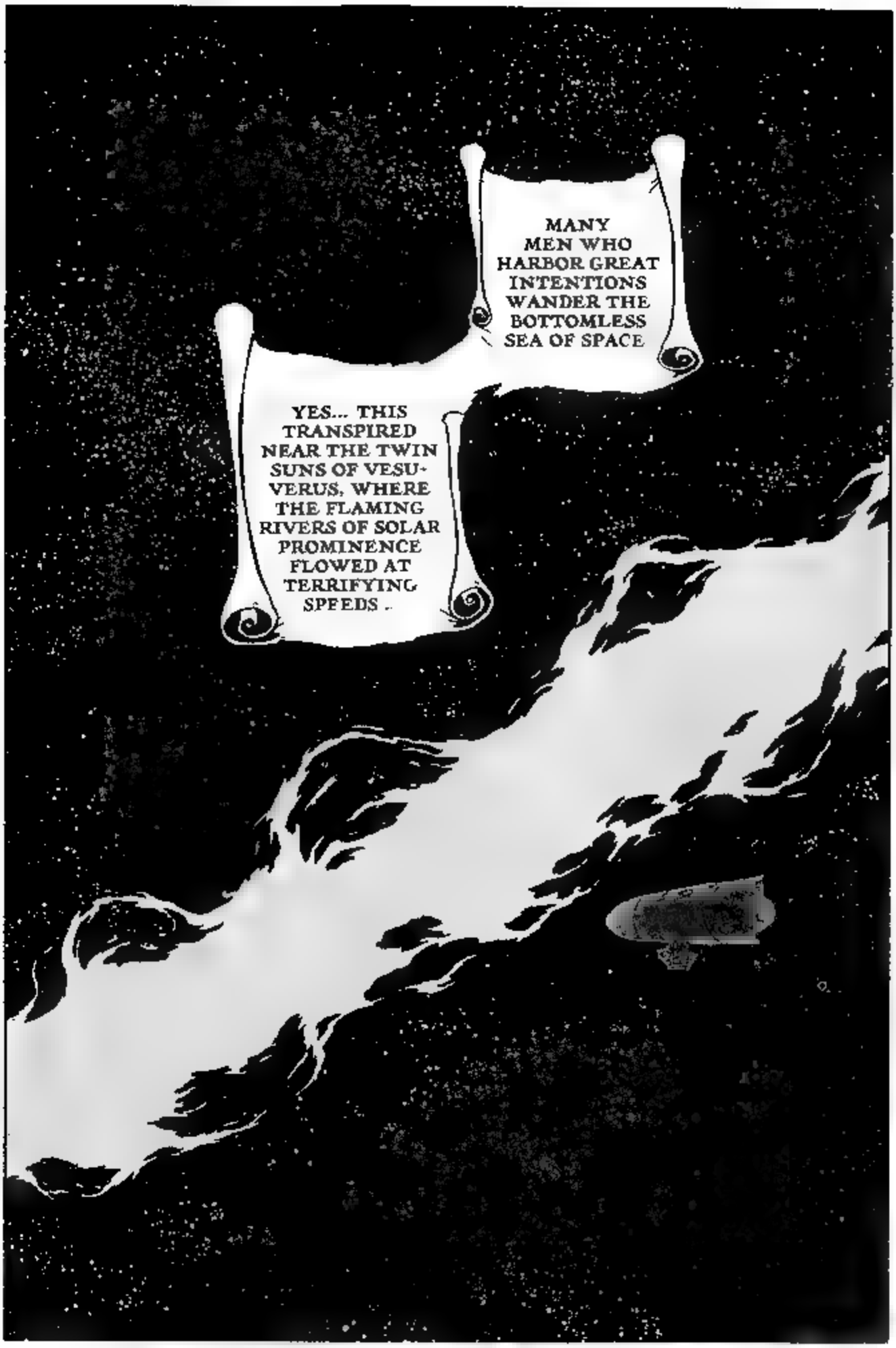


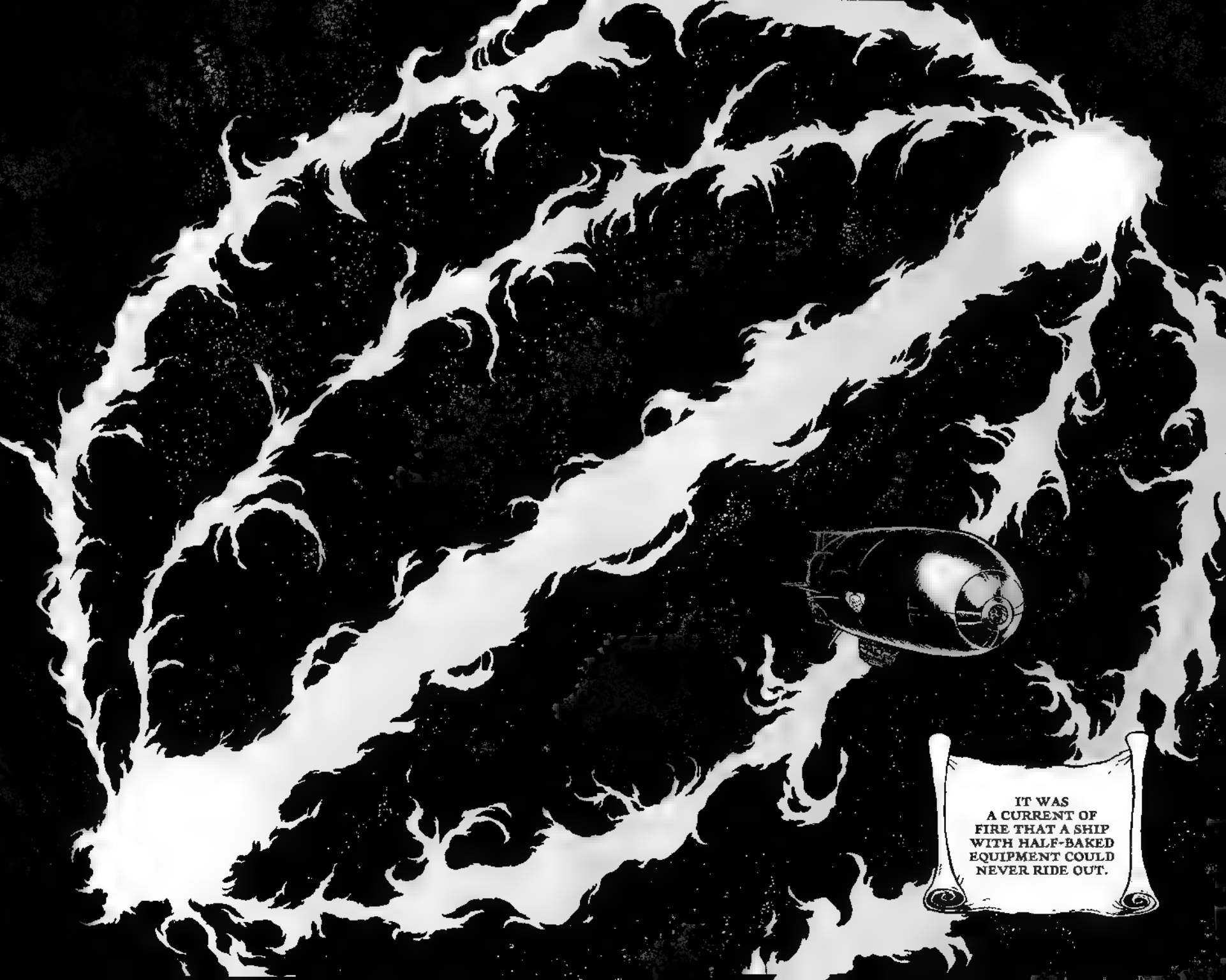

SFX: FWOOOOOSH!
I AM EMERALDUS. I LEFT THE FLEET WITH A HEAVY SENSATION...

IT WAS FORTUNATE THAT THE MAN I WAS SEARCH-ING FOR WAS NOT AMONG THEM

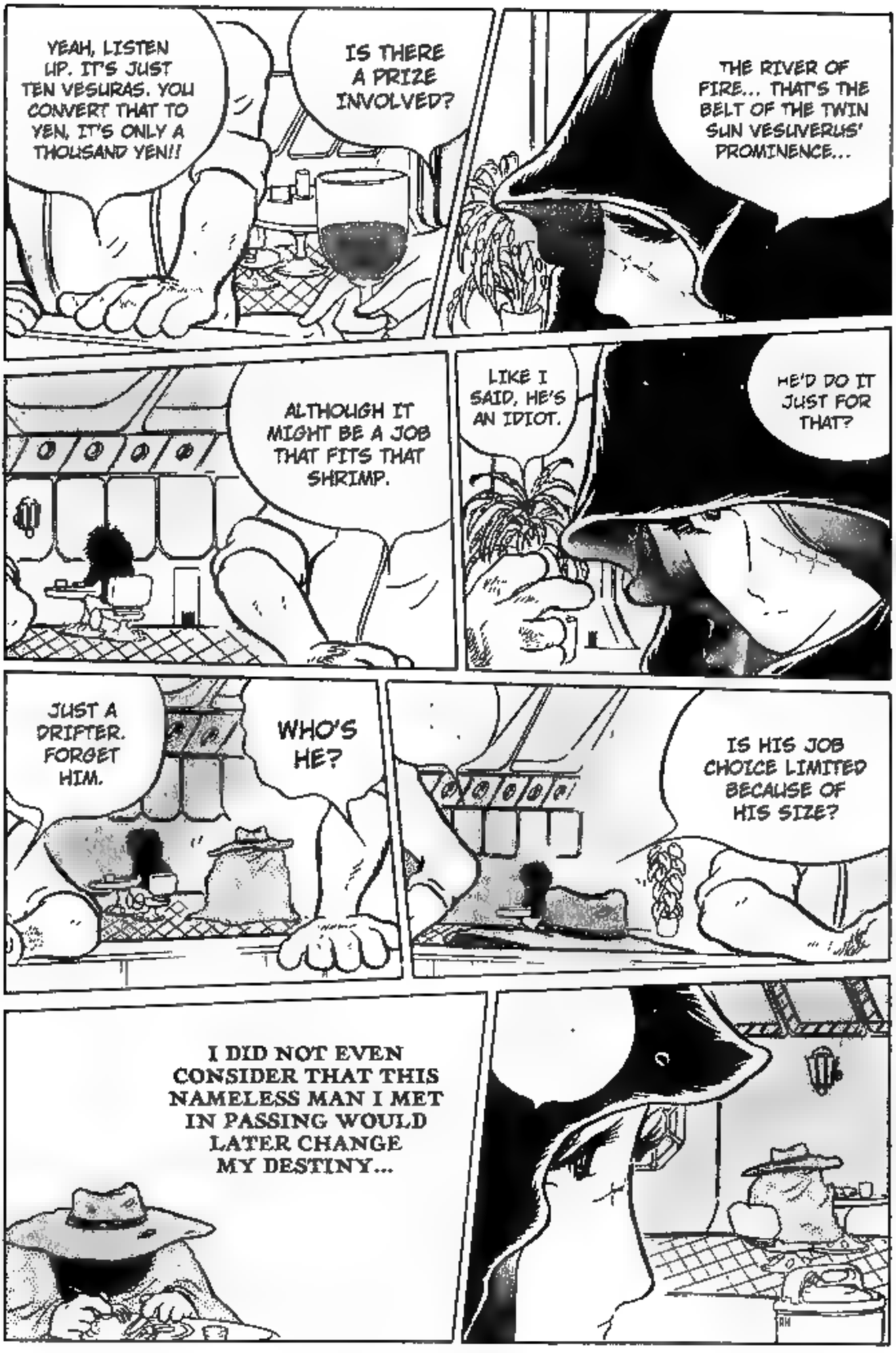


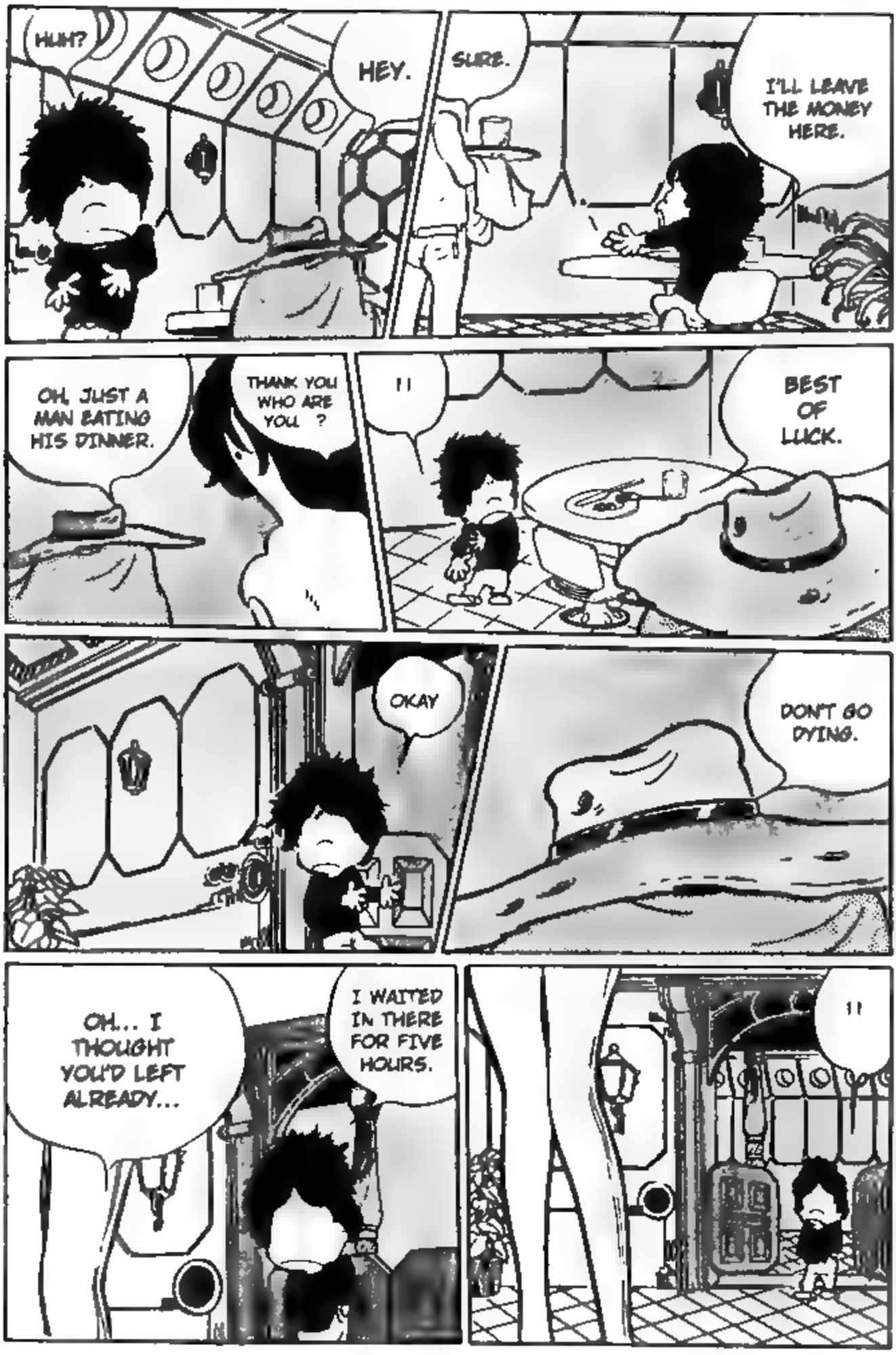

MY HEART PAINED AT THE THOUGHT OF THE FUTURE OF A FLEET LED BY SUCH AN IMPOTENT COMMANDER. BUT IF THE FLEET HAD CHOSEN HIM THEMSELVES, THIS MAY HAVE BEEN INEVITABLE... BUT THE SEA OF SPACE IS NOT SO FORGIVING...

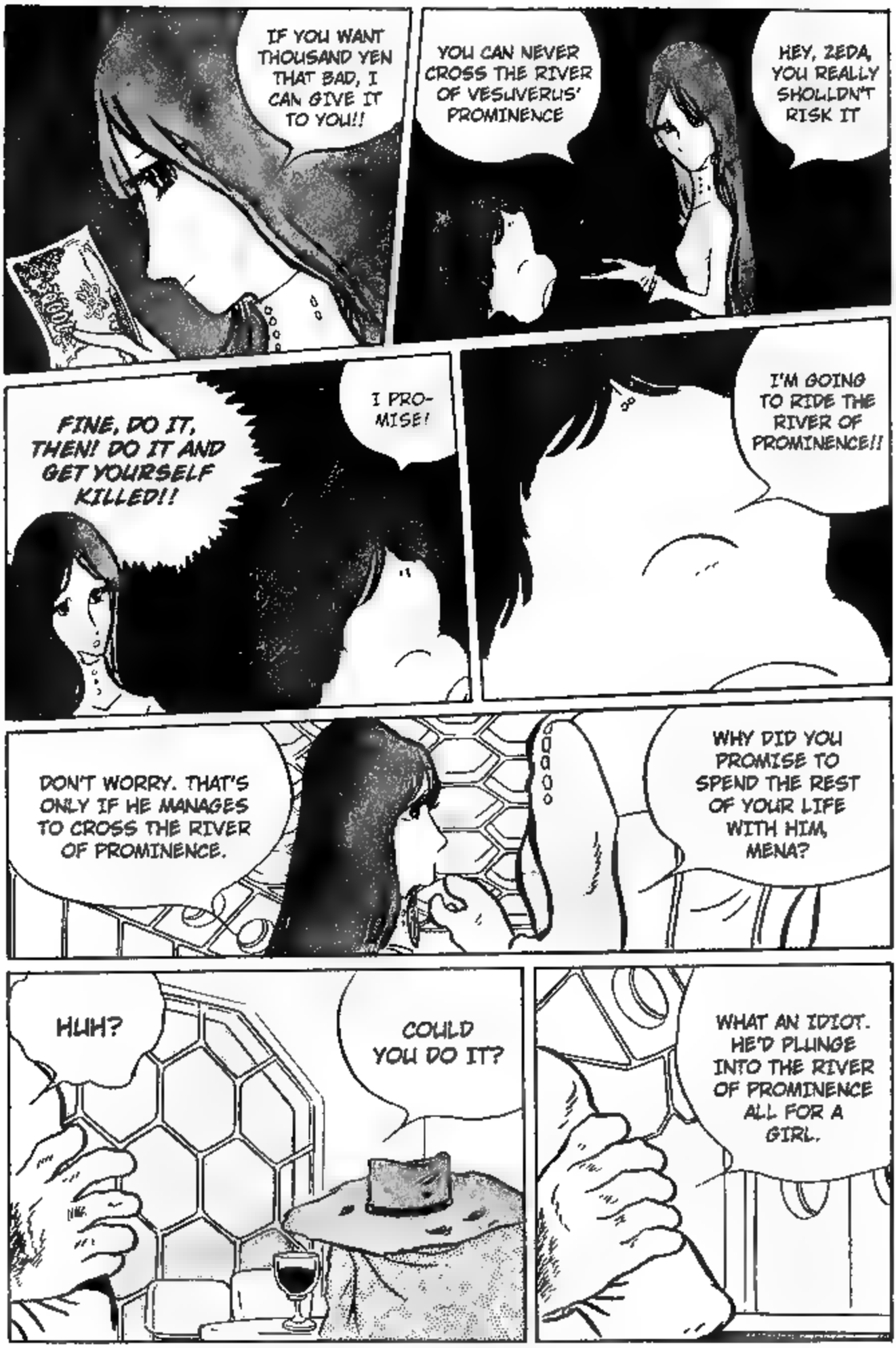

MANY MEN WHO HARBOR GREAT INTENTIONS WANDER THE BOTTOMLESS SEA OF SPACE
YES... THIS TRANSPIRED NEAR THE TWIN SUNS OF VESU-VERUS, WHERE THE FLAMING RIVERS OF SOLAR PROMINENCE FLOWED AT TERRIFYING SPEEDS -

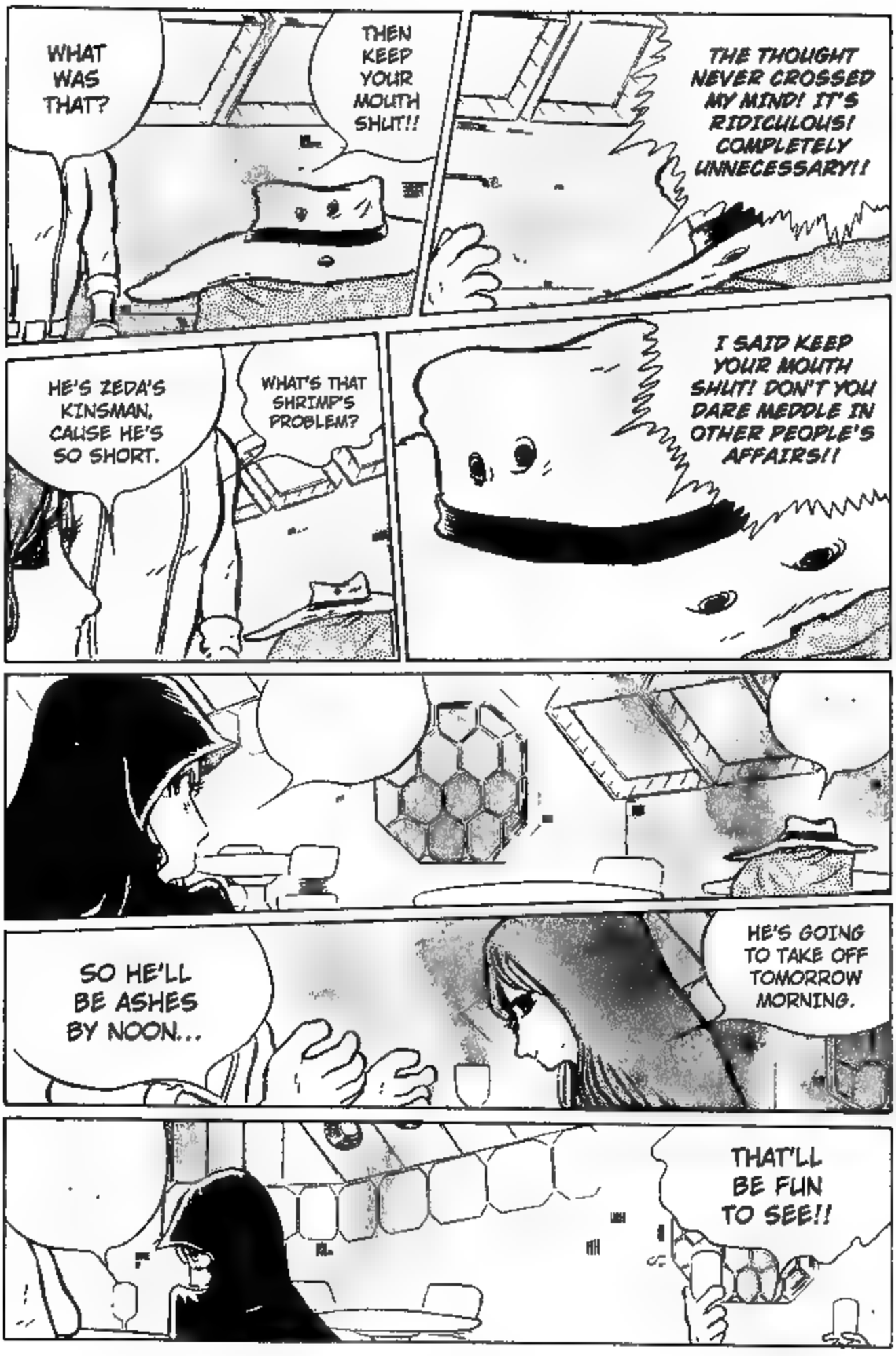

IT WAS A CURRENT OF FIRE THAT A SHIP WITH HALF-BAKED EQUIPMENT COULD NEVER RIDE OUT.

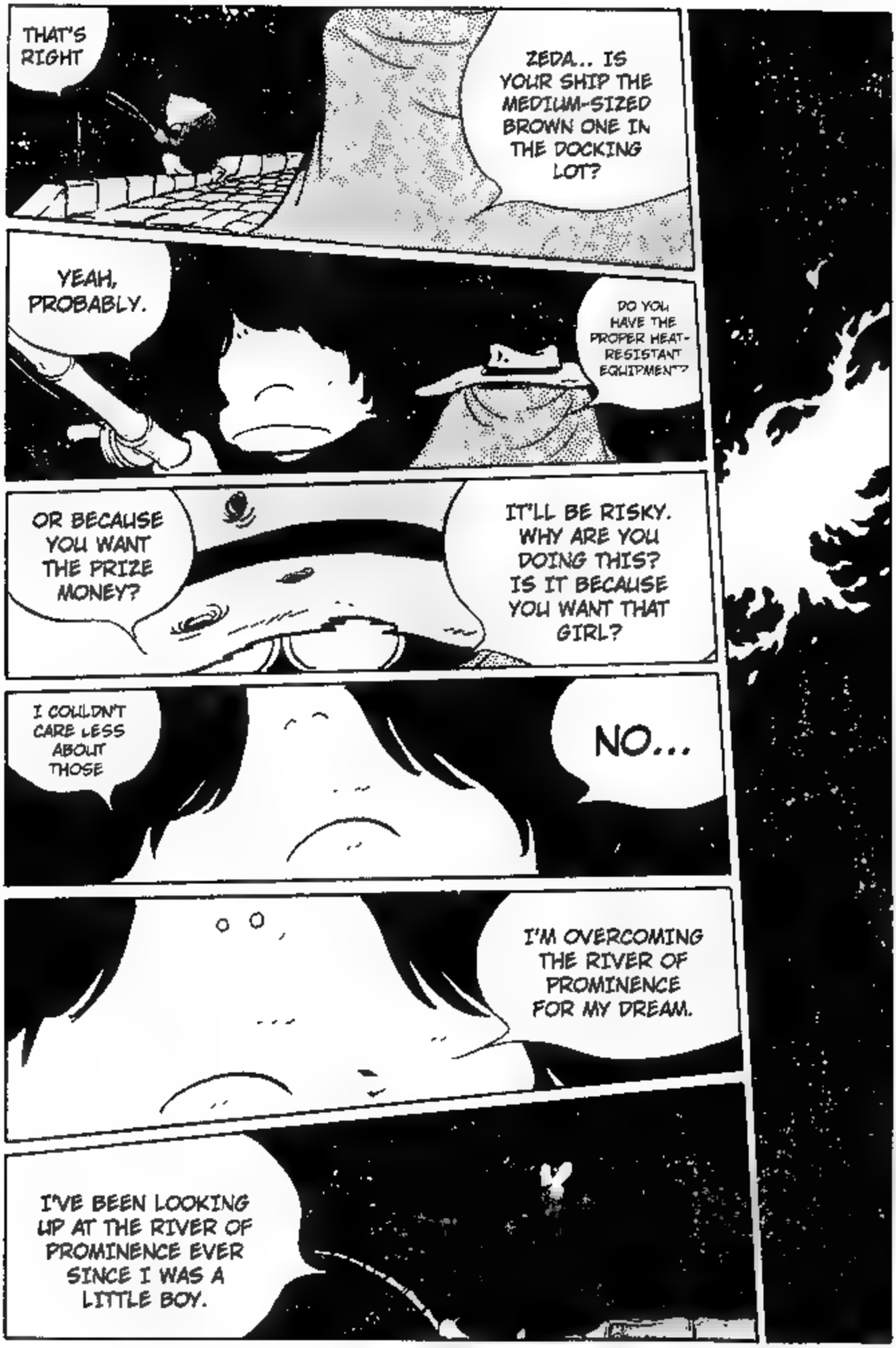
ON A NEARBY COLONIAL PLANET, I MET A MAN WHO CLAIMED TO BE ABLE TO CROSS THE RIVER OF FIRE.
YES... THAT MAN'S NAME WAS ZEDA...
HAVE YOU EVEN LOOKED AT HIM!?
WHY NOT?
NO, WAY! NOT IN A MILLION YEARS!!
HAHAHAHA! ZEDA CAN CROSS THE RIVER OF FIRE?
HE'S NEVER BEEN TESTED, BUT HE'S GOT NOTHING TO OFFER.
HE'S WEAK, AND HE'S NOT EVEN THAT SMART!
HE'S ONLY HALF OUR SIZE!!


YEAH, LISTEN UP. IT'S JUST TEN VESURAS. YOU CONVERT THAT TO YEN, IT'S ONLY A THOUSAND YEN!!
IS THERE A PRIZE INVOLVED?
THE RIVER OF FIRE... THAT'S THE BELT OF THE TWIN SUN VESUVERUS' PROMINENCE...
ALTHOUGH IT MIGHT BE A JOB THAT FITS THAT SHRIMP.
LIKE I SAID, HE'S AN IDIOT.
HE'D DO IT JUST FOR THAT?
JUST A DRIFTER. FORGET HIM.
WHO'S HE?
IS HIS JOB CHOICE LIMITED BECAUSE OF HIS SIZE?
I DID NOT EVEN CONSIDER THAT THIS NAMELESS MAN I MET IN PASSING WOULD LATER CHANGE MY DESTINY...

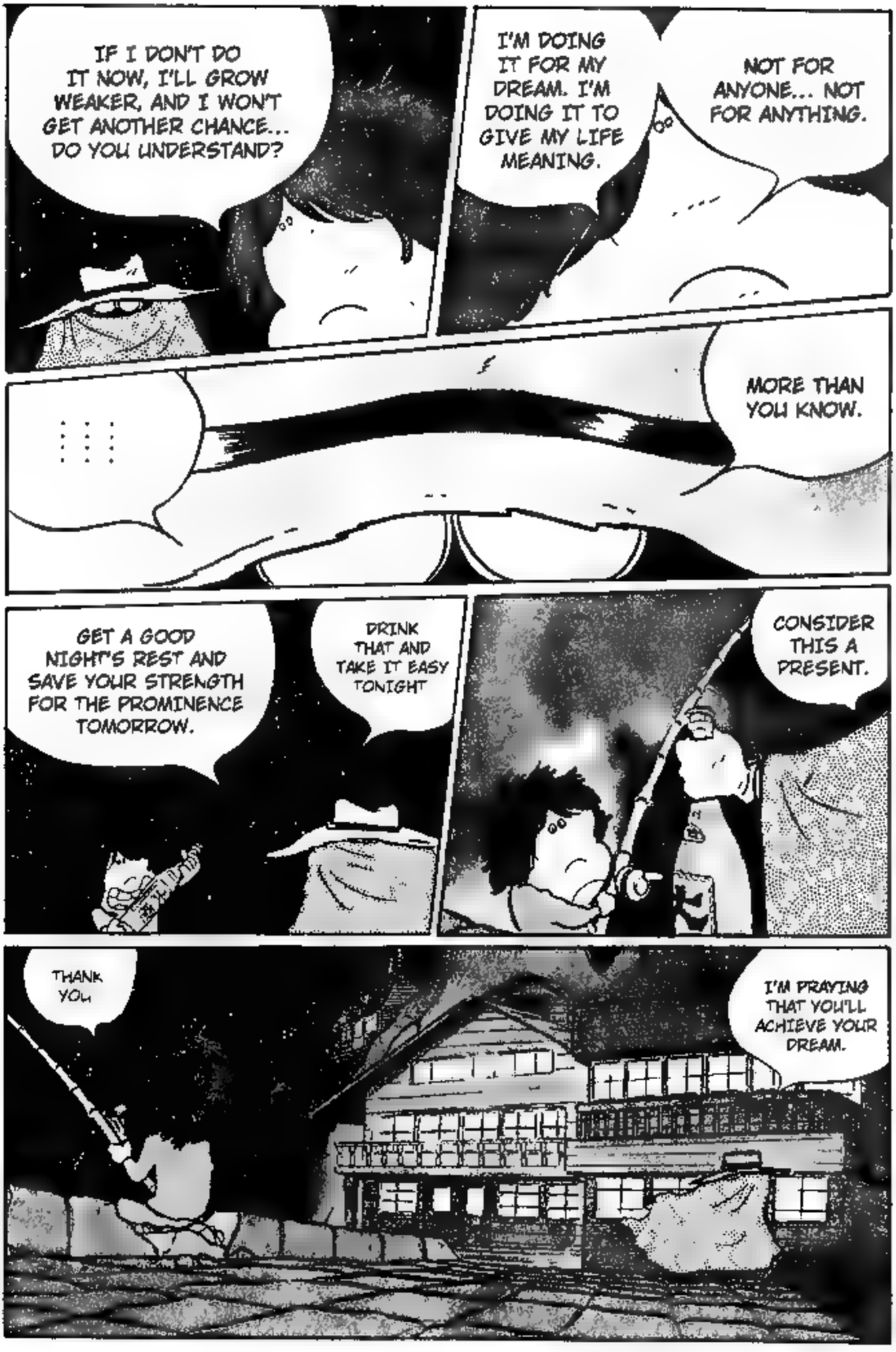

HUH?
HEY.
SURE.
I'LL LEAVE THE MONEY HERE.
OH, JUST A MAN EATING HIS DINNER.
THANK YOU WHO ARE YOU ?
!!
BEST OF LUCK.
OKAY
DON'T GO DYING.
OH... I THOUGHT YOU'D LEFT ALREADY...
I WAITED IN THERE FOR FIVE HOURS.
!!


IF YOU WANT THOUSAND YEN THAT BAD, I CAN GIVE IT TO YOU!!
YOU CAN NEVER CROSS THE RIVER OF VESUVERUS' PROMINENCE
HEY, ZEDA, YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T RISK IT
FINE, DO IT, THEN! DO IT AND GET YOURSELF KILLED!!
I PRO-MISE!
I'M GOING TO RIDE THE RIVER OF PROMINENCE!!
DON'T WORRY. THAT'S ONLY IF HE MANAGES TO CROSS THE RIVER OF PROMINENCE.
WHY DID YOU PROMISE TO SPEND THE REST OF YOUR LIFE WITH HIM, MENA?
HUH?
COULD YOU DO IT?
WHAT AN IDIOT. HE'D PLUNGE INTO THE RIVER OF PROMINENCE ALL FOR A GIRL.


WHAT WAS THAT?
THEN KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT!!
THE THOUGHT NEVER CROSSED MY MIND! IT'S RIDICULOUS! COMPLETELY UNNECESSARY!!
HE'S ZEDA'S KINSMAN, CAUSE HE'S SO SHORT.
WHAT'S THAT SHRIMP'S PROBLEM?
I SAID KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT! DON'T YOU DARE MEDDLE IN OTHER PEOPLE'S AFFAIRS!!
SO HE'LL BE ASHES BY NOON...
HE'S GOING TO TAKE OFF TOMORROW MORNING.
THAT'LL BE FUN TO SEE!!


THAT'S RIGHT
ZEDA... IS YOUR SHIP THE MEDIUM-SIZED BROWN ONE IN THE DOCKING LOT?
YEAH, PROBABLY.
DO YOU HAVE THE PROPER HEAT-RESISTANT EQUIPMENT?
OR BECAUSE YOU WANT THE PRIZE MONEY?
IT'LL BE RISKY. WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS? IS IT BECAUSE YOU WANT THAT GIRL?
I COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT THOSE
NO...
I'M OVERCOMING THE RIVER OF PROMINENCE FOR MY DREAM.
I'VE BEEN LOOKING UP AT THE RIVER OF PROMINENCE EVER SINCE I WAS A LITTLE BOY.

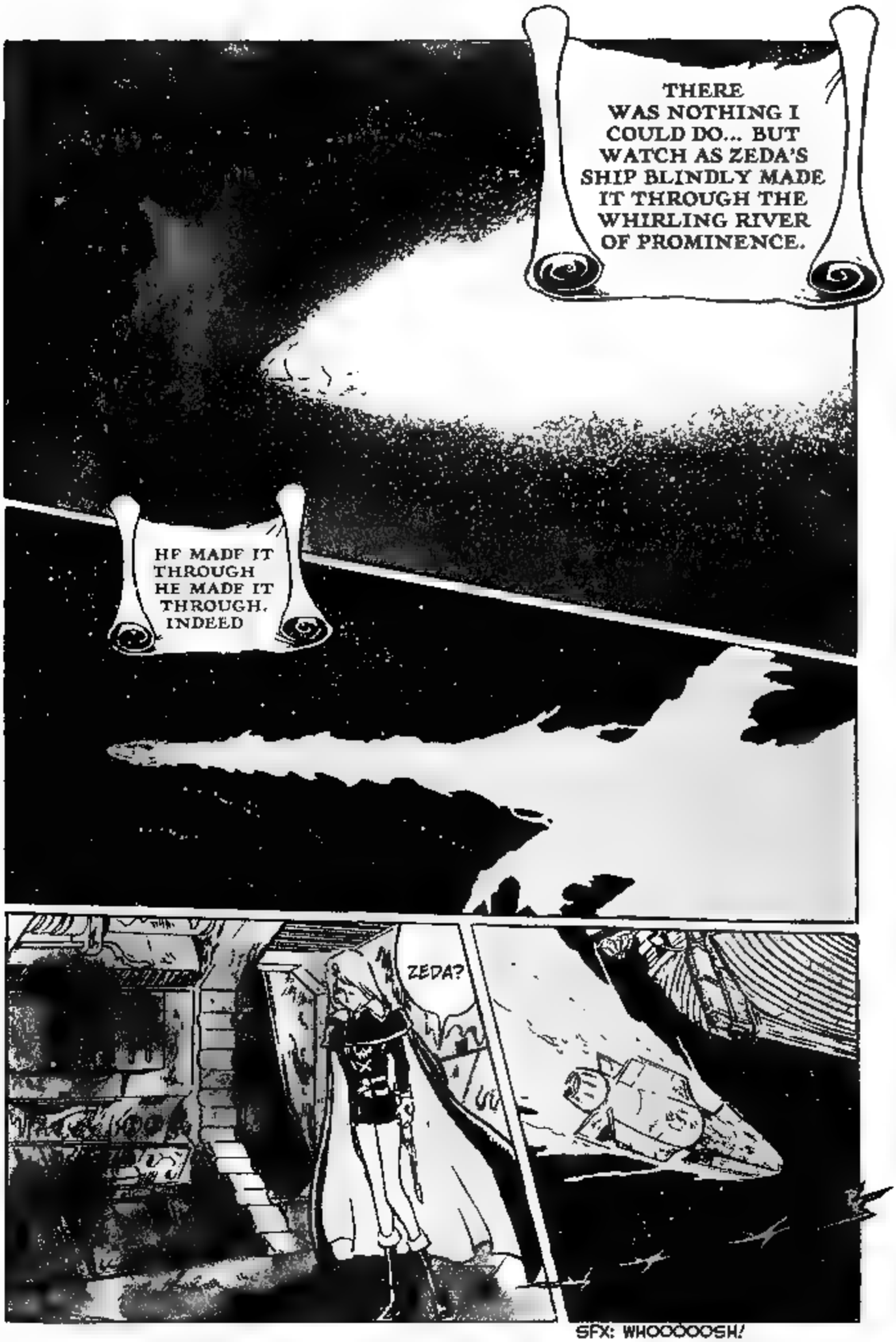
I ALWAYS WISHED... THAT I COULD GROW UP TO BE A MAN... WHO COULD CROSS AND RIDE OUT THAT RIVER ONE DAY.

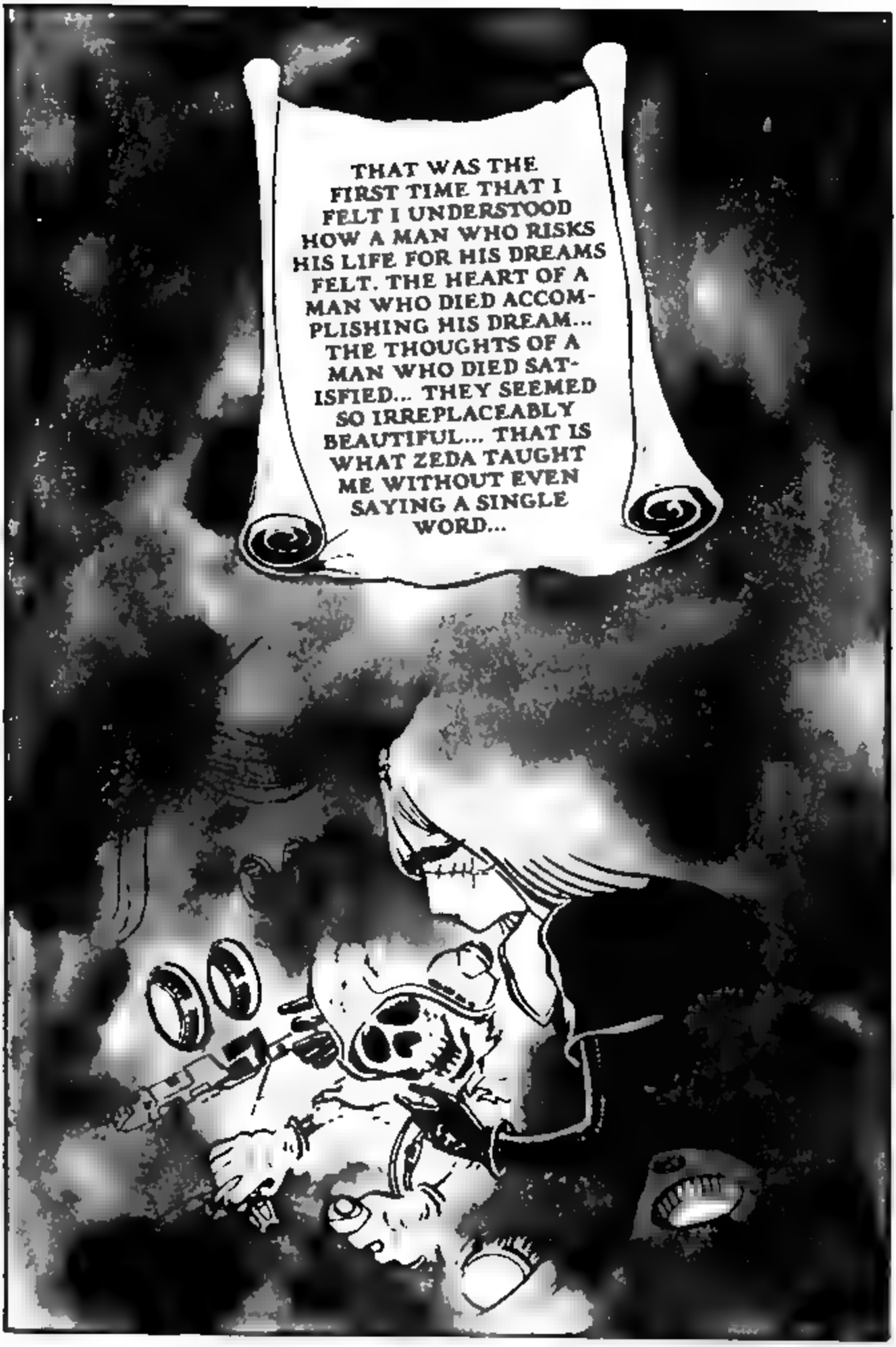

IF I DON'T DO IT NOW, I'LL GROW WEAKER, AND I WON'T GET ANOTHER CHANCE... DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
I'M DOING IT FOR MY DREAM. I'M DOING IT TO GIVE MY LIFE MEANING.
NOT FOR ANYONE... NOT FOR ANYTHING.
MORE THAN YOU KNOW.
GET A GOOD NIGHT'S REST AND SAVE YOUR STRENGTH FOR THE PROMINENCE TOMORROW.
DRINK THAT AND TAKE IT EASY TONIGHT
CONSIDER THIS A PRESENT.
THANK YOU
I'M PRAYING THAT YOU'LL ACHIEVE YOUR DREAM.

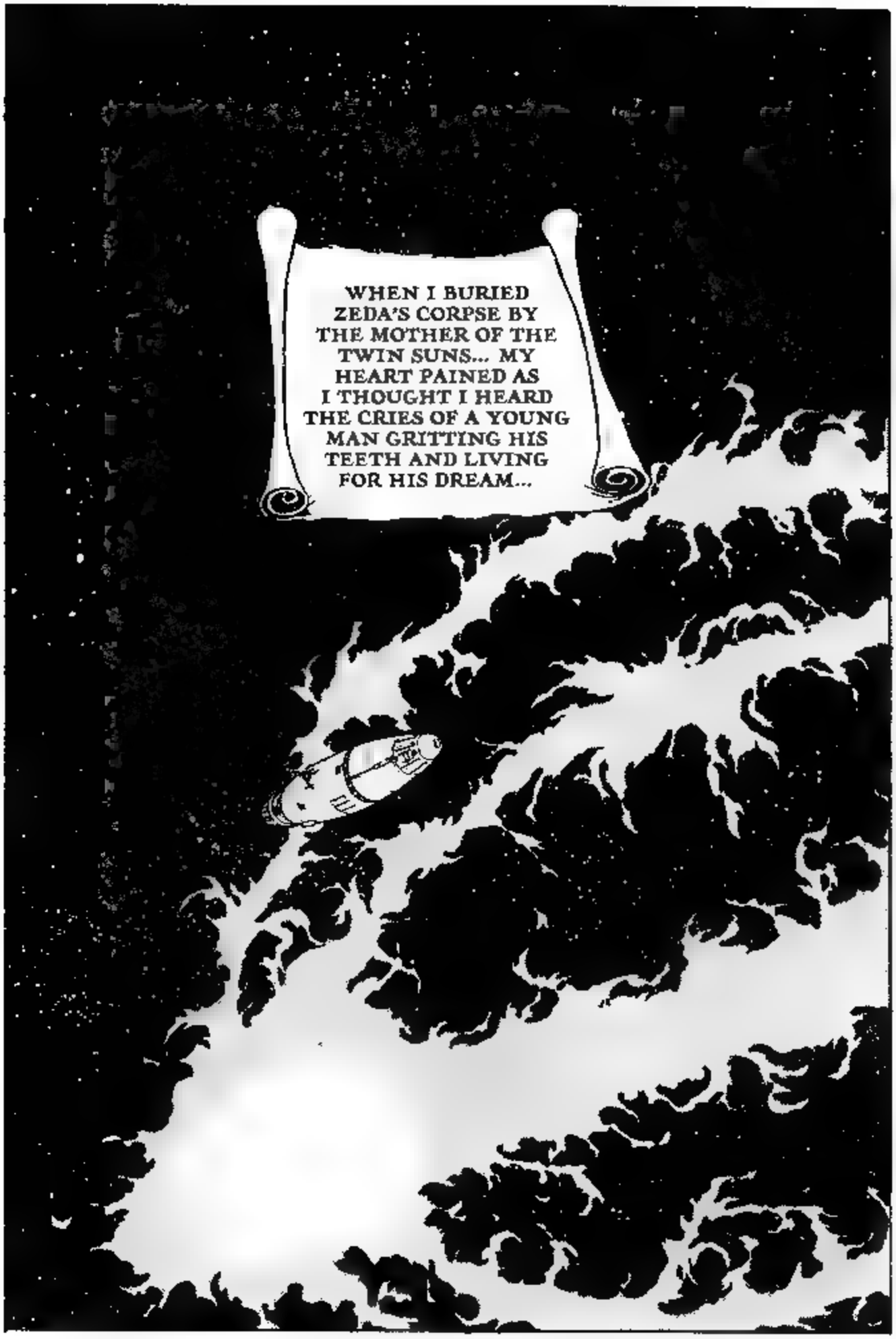
I HAVE NO NAME... I'M JUST A MAN.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
JUST A MAN WHO RISKED HIS LIFE FOR THE SAME DREAM AS YOU.
YES, LAST NIGHT. IF I'D BEEN ANY LONGER, I'D HAVE BEEN BURNT TO A CRISP. MY BODY STILL SMELLS BURNT.
DID YOU FLY INTO THE RIVER OF PROMINENCE?

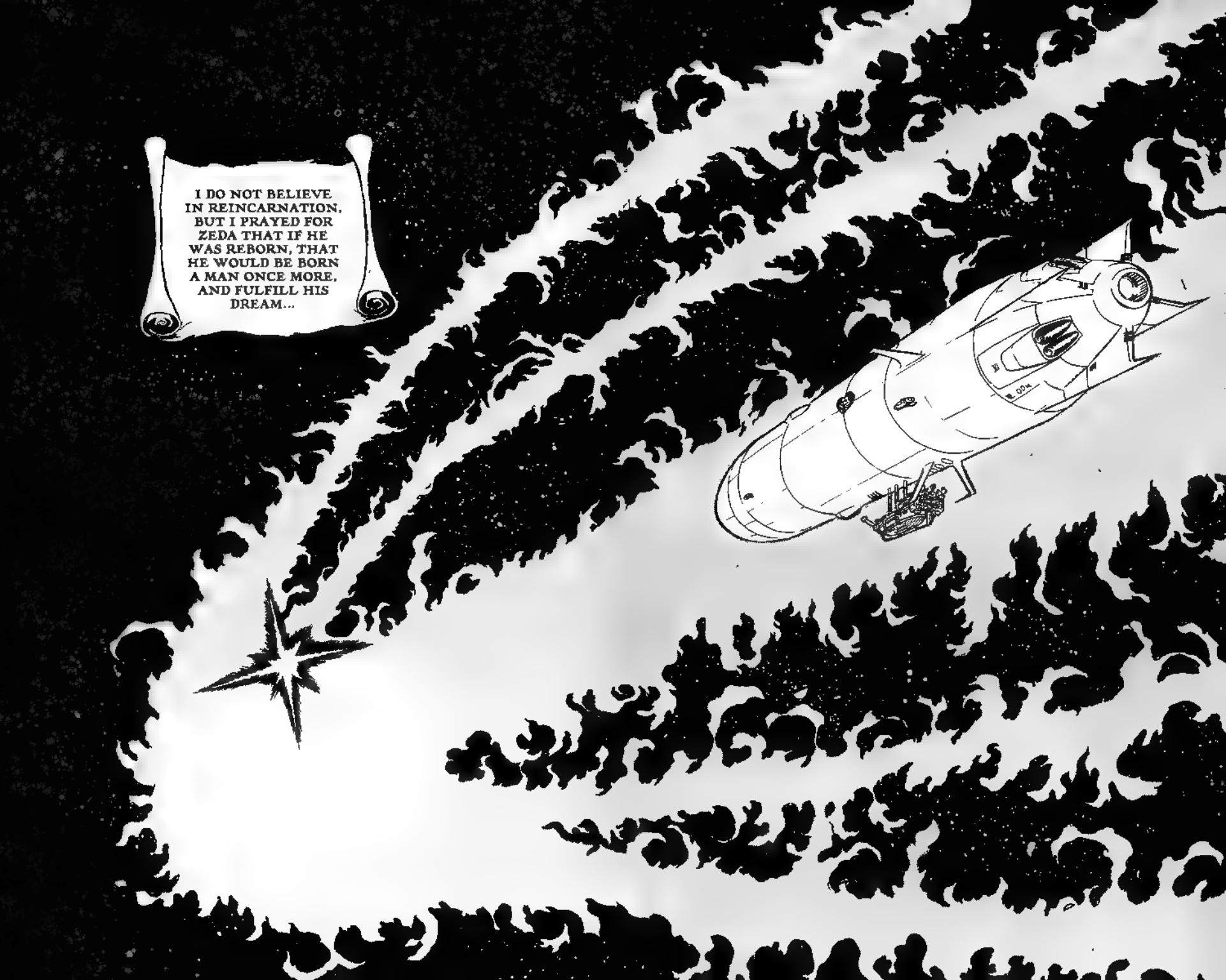
IF YOU'RE GONNA INSULT HIM, DON'T WATCH HIM!!
DO YOU WANNA GET YOURSELVES KILLED?
IF ANY OF YOU TAKES ONE STEP OUTSIDE BEFORE ZEDA MAKES IT OUT OF THERE, I'LL RIDDLE YOU FULL OF HOLES WITH MY SHIP'S AUTOMATIC DESTRUCTO-MACHINE GUN!!
SAME TO ANYONE WHO LOOKS OUT THE WINDOW!!
SFX: SWOOOOOSH!
THERE GOES ZEDA.
WHAT AN IDIOT.
BUT I WAS MORE INTERESTED IN ZEDA.
THIS MAN WAS STRANGELY FASCINATING...

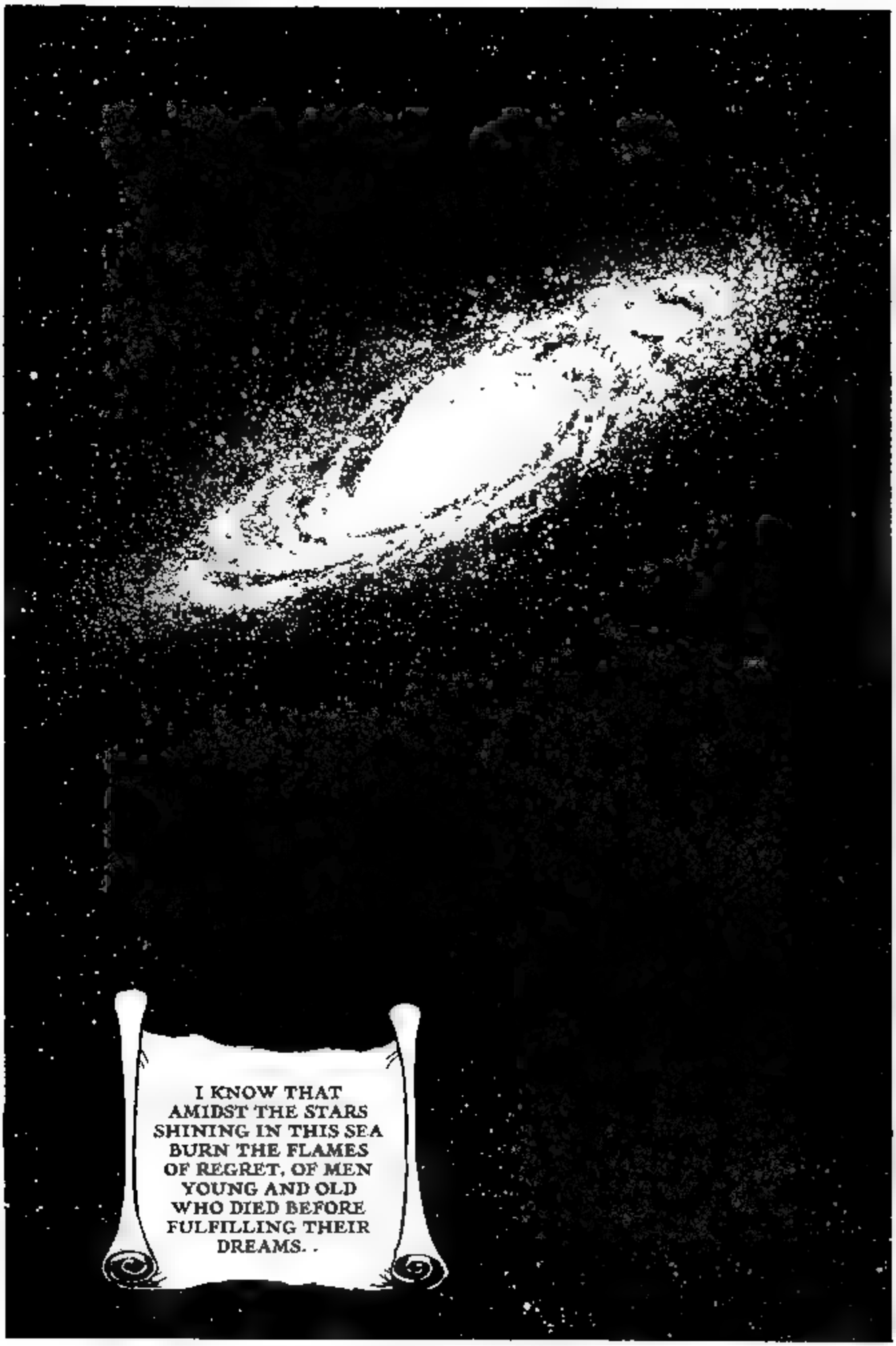
MY QUEEN EMERALDUS FOLLOWED ZEDA'S BROWN SHIP.
IT'S HOPELESS. HIS HEAT SHIELDING IS INCOMPLETE...
SFX: FOOOOOOOM!

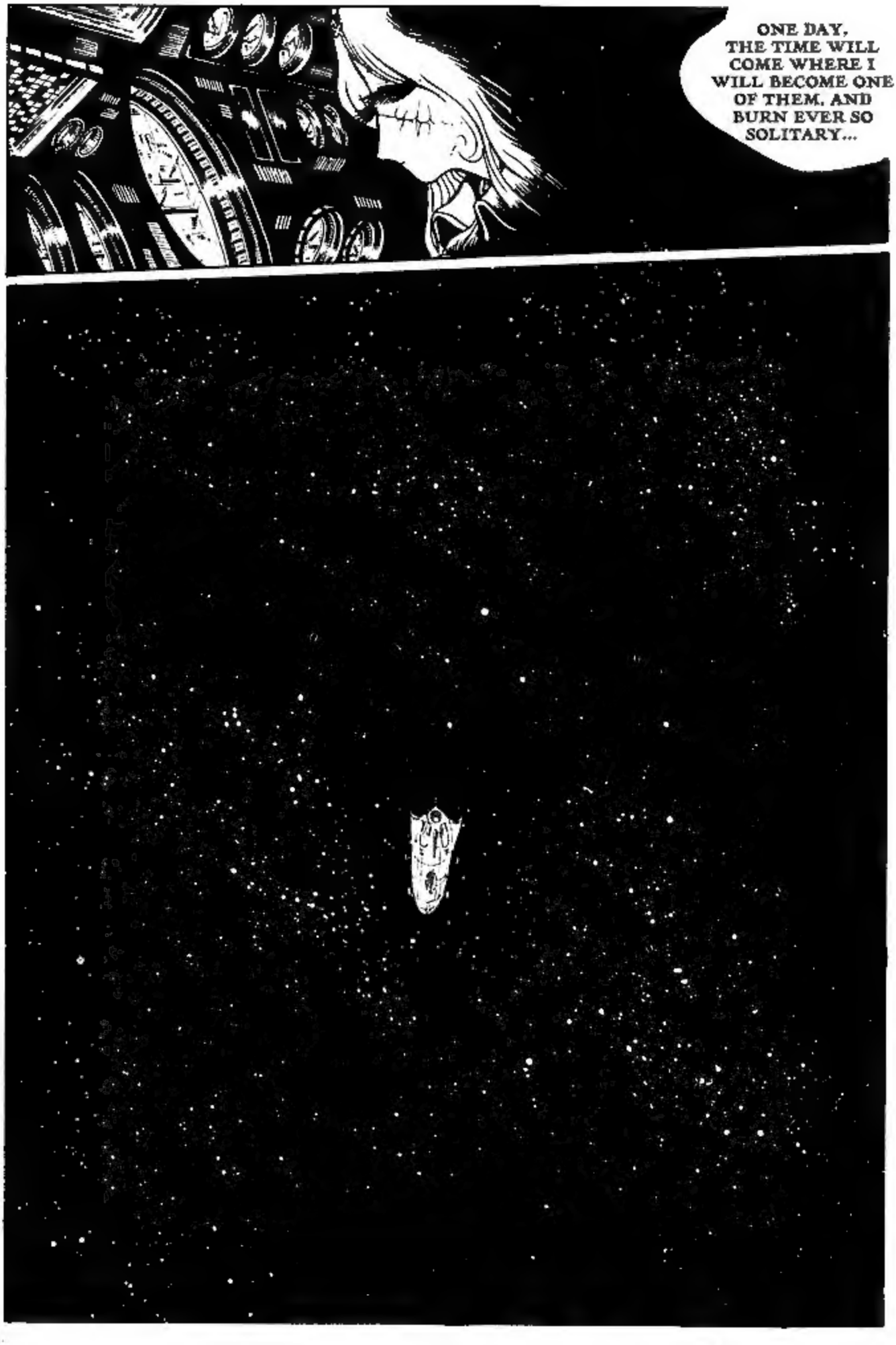

THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO... BUT WATCH AS ZEDA'S SHIP BLINDLY MADE IT THROUGH THE WHIRLING RIVER OF PROMINENCE.
HE MADE IT THROUGH HE MADE IT THROUGH. INDEED
ZEDA?
SFX: WHOOOOOSH!


THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT I FELT I UNDERSTOOD HOW A MAN WHO RISKS HIS LIFE FOR HIS DREAMS FELT. THE HEART OF A MAN WHO DIED ACCOMPLISHING HIS DREAM... THE THOUGHTS OF A MAN WHO DIED SATISFIED... THEY SEEMED SO IRREPLACEABLY BEAUTIFUL... THAT IS WHAT ZEDA TAUGHT ME WITHOUT EVEN SAYING A SINGLE WORD...


WHEN I BURIED ZEDA'S CORPSE BY THE MOTHER OF THE TWIN SUNS... MY HEART PAINED AS I THOUGHT I HEARD THE CRIES OF A YOUNG MAN GRITTING HIS TEETH AND LIVING FOR HIS DREAM...


I DO NOT BELIEVE IN REINCARNATION, BUT I PRAYED FOR ZEDA THAT IF HE WAS REBORN, THAT HE WOULD BE BORN A MAN ONCE MORE, AND FULFILL HIS DREAM...


I KNOW THAT AMIDST THE STARS SHINING IN THIS SEA BURN THE FLAMES OF REGRET, OF MEN YOUNG AND OLD WHO DIED BEFORE FULFILLING THEIR DREAMS. .


ONE DAY, THE TIME WILL COME WHERE I WILL BECOME ONE OF THEM, AND BURN EVER SO SOLITARY...

MY SHIP AND I KNOW FULL WELL HOW TRANSIENT OUR JOURNEY IS, AS WE TRY TO FIND A SINGLE THING AMONG THEM...

VOLUME 02 - FIN

あなたは、この本を読んで、どのような感想をおもちになりましたか。

このほかに、「講談社コミックス」の中で、どんな本を読まれましたか。

このつぎには、どんな作家の、どんなまんがを読みたいとお考えですか。

コミックス編集の参考にさせていただきたいと思います。「読後の感想」と合わせて、左記のところあてにお知らせください。

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